

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE1070

## Perkins, Hetty

(1905 - 1979)

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**Born** 1 January, 1905, Northern Territory Australia

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**Died** 1 December, 1979, Australia

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### Summary

Hetty Perkins was an Aranda woman from Central Australia. From the age of 14 she worked as a kitchen-hand at a hotel in Arltunga, and rode out mustering and watering cattle for the hotel owner. She had eleven children, and her son Charles Perkins became the first Aboriginal person to hold a senior public service appointment. Hetty worked on a cattle station for some time before moving to Alice Springs to work as a nursemaid in a European family. She later lived on Telegraph Station near Alice Springs, and worked in Alice Springs as a cook. Later, she moved to Jay Creek Settlement. She looked after many children as well as her own, and urged Aboriginal children to keep out of trouble.

### Published resources

#### Resource Section

Perkins, Hetty (1895-1979), Read, Peter, 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A150692b.htm>

#### Edited Book

200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

#### Author Details

Leonarda Kovacic

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