Lowitja O'Donoghue

At the age of two in 1934 Lowitja O'Donoghue and two of her sisters were kidnapped from their mother by missionaries on behalf of South Australia's Aboriginal Protection Board. She was renamed Lois, and she and her sisters lived at Colebrook Children's Home. They didn't see their mother again for 30 years. They weren't allowed to ask questions about their origins, their parents or even speak their own language.

Dr O'Donoghue attended Unley General Technical High School in Adelaide. Her goal was to become a nurse but, after initial training, she was refused to continue her studies at Royal Adelaide Hospital because she was Aboriginal. She fought the decision and in 1954 became the first Aboriginal trainee nurse at the hospital. As a trainee O'Donoghue worked hard to overcome the negative expectations of staff and went on to become the hospital's first Aboriginal nurse. Dr O'Donoghue graduated and became a

charge sister at the hospital, where she stayed for ten years.

In 1984 Dr O'Donoghue was named Australian of the Year in recognition of her work and personal contribution in bridging the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. In 1990 she became the founding Chairperson of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC). She continues to work on Indigenous human rights issues, including health, housing, community development and land rights. Lowitja really helped Aboriginal people.

By Thanusri Gadikota 5T