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SOCIETY**  
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## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE FACT SHEET



# Western Arrarnta

## General Language Information:

Spoken by around 1,000 people in and around Hermansburg (*Ntaria*), 125km west of Alice Springs in the heart of the West MacDonnell Ranges in the Northern Territory.

The Hermansburg Mission, later to become the Finke River Mission, was established in 1877 and became for many years the largest settlement in central Australia. It was through the work of Pastor Carl Strehlow, who arrived in Hermansburg in 1894, that the mission really began to develop. Several buildings including a school and church were built (and still remain as historic buildings today *pictured below, courtesy Wikipedia.org*). Strehlow, a talented linguist, began to document the Western Arrarnta people's traditional practises and language and this work was continued by his son Ted. The Western Arrarnta language is taught to the local children in the Hermansburg school. The Mission was handed back to the Western Arrarnta people in 1982.

## Useful Links....

Some of the information contained in this Fact sheet is from the following websites:

[www.omniglot.com.au](http://www.omniglot.com.au)  
[www.ehtnologue.com](http://www.ehtnologue.com)



Here is John 3:16 as it appears in the Western Arrarnta New Testament:

***“Altjirranha kunha relha alharinya  
ntjarraka kngarra inthorra kangkaka.  
Lakinhangana era ‘Lira nyintanta ekuranha  
alhurna yairnaka, etna erinha errilknga  
tutjika. Kurunga relha etnala ‘lira erinha  
tnakama, etna itja kutantaka ilutjina.  
Etna pula Altjirralela ngampakala etatha  
nitjina.”***



Above: Church in Hermansburg

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## SCRIPTURE RESOURCES AVAILABLE

### Print

- Carl Strehlow (*pictured below*) was the first to translate the New Testament into Western Arrarnta and Bible Translation work has continued over the years. The latest version '**Altjirraaka Angkatja**' (*pictured right*) is a work coordinated by Pastor Paul Albrecht which was completed and published by the Bible Society in 1997. The Study New Testament contains Old Testament portions and a complete revision of the New Testament.

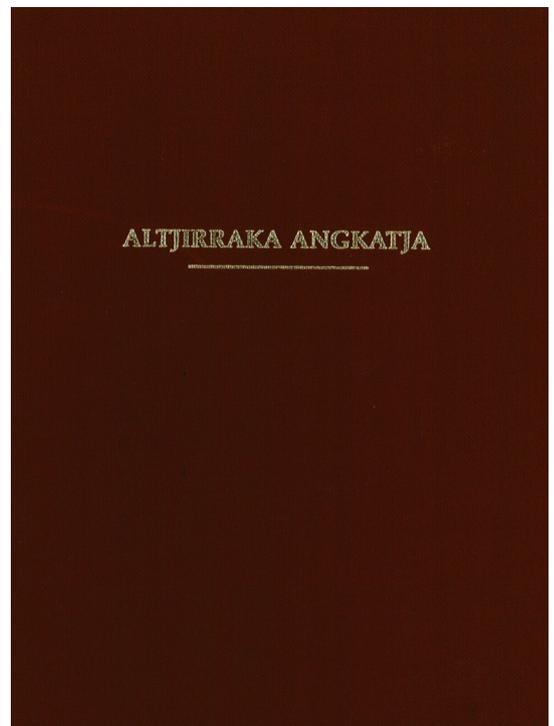
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Carl Friedrich Theodor Strehlow (1871-1922) by unknown photographer, 1894. Courtesy State Library of South Australia,



### Audio

- There are various audio recordings available through the **Global Recordings Network** (<http://globalrecordings.net/>)

### Video

- There are currently no Audio-Visual resources for this language.

***For further information about this resource or to order copies please contact:***

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***Phone: (08) 8 8292 4888***

***Email: [translation@biblesociety.org.au](mailto:translation@biblesociety.org.au)***

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