

**The power of poetry**

*From time to time Indigenous and non-Indigenous people around Australia send us their poems (and occasionally song lyrics) conveying their candid opinions or thoughts in verse.*

*With permission of the writers, we've reproduced some of those poems for your enjoyment. If you wish to publish any of these poems please contact us and we'll put you in touch with the writer.*

***Australia – the free country***

by Georgia Kenny Watson

*This beautiful poem was written by 13-year-old Georgia Kenny Watson from Lindfield, NSW. Georgia wrote the poem for a school assignment about Australia. It was sent in by her mother's friend, Alanna Hardman.*

If Australia had a body  
It would be made of swirls of red dust  
Swept across the surface  
It would have few trees scattered around the heart  
Curvaceous yet pointy  
Beautiful yet dry

If Australia had a face  
It would be black  
With white edging itself in from the edges  
And with no invitation  
On Australia's beautiful appearance  
Of culture and purity

If Australia had eyes  
They would be big  
And coloured black, white, and brown  
To represent the different races  
And reflect their history  
And accept them

If Australia had a mouth  
It would sing of its past  
Of dreamtime and convicts  
And wear lipstick of red ochre  
And dust which has made its way in

If Australia had hair  
It would be curly and tangled  
Like the bushes of the Australian outback  
Messy, dusty and brown  
Beyond the hope of ever being untangled

If Australia had a heart  
It would mourn for the stolen generation  
And rejoice for the belated reconciliation