

Australia's Lost Languages

In 1788 Australia had over 250 languages. Fewer than half are still spoken and on current trends almost all will cease to be spoken in a generation if nothing is done to save them now. Each language contains a universe of knowledge, wisdom and culture — the voice of humanity. Some people are doing fabulous work to sustain and revive languages. This song lists just a few of our lost languages.

Note on music: Musical notation has not been provided for this song because the words are spoken against the musical background of alternating chords.

[Am] Ngunawal, Gunditjmara, Burduna, Kuring-gai,
[G] Wathawurrung, Gayiri, Bunurong, Manangkarri,
[Am] Jiwarli, Kuyani, Nuenonne, Dhurooa,
[G] Peramangk, Birladapa, Wakaya, Taungurong,
[Am] Wadi Wadi, Damala, Yaralde, Ngawun,
[G] Bidjigal, Yorta Yorta, Warungu, Plangermaireener,
[Am] Kurna, Binikura, Nauo, Djabwurung,
[G] Daruk, Gugu Muluriji, Amangu, Eora,
[Am] Ladjiladji, Awabakal, Garawa, Yangman,
[F#m] Nukunu, Bandjin, Nyawaygi, Darkinjung,
[Em] Parnkalla, Ayabadhu, Paredarmerme, Jardwadjai,
[Am] Tyerrernotepanner, Worimi, Duulngari, Gulidjan,
[G] Bidjara, Angkamuthi, Doolboong, Walgalu,
[Am] Mingin, Barrow Point, Djiru, Djadjawurrung,
[F#m] Nganyaywana, Yukgul, Dharawal, Nhuwala,
[Em] Warnarrang, Ngarigo, Kalaamaya, Dhirari,
[Am] Tatungalung, Muruwari, Thiin, Yaburarra,
[G] Lairmairrener, Wanamara, Bidawal, Bangerang,
[Am] Kwat Kwat, Brabralung, Bugurnidja, Jurruru,
[G] Djilamatang, Djirringany, Woiwurrung. [Am]