

Denise Smith-Ali OAM

Noongar woman Denise Smith-Ali lived her early life in her father's Kaniyang Country (Noongar). Her mother is Wilman Clan (Noongar). Denise is from Bilya Moort (River people).

Denise has always had a strong interest in her culture and language, and has worked for two decades on reviving and maintaining Noongar language. In 1997-2002 Denise was part of establishing an Aboriginal K-3 School. In 2001, Denise became a Noongar LOTE teacher. Denise qualified with a Bachelor of Arts in Language and Linguistics from Bachelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in 2008.

Denise is now the Senior Linguist/Language Coordinator for NBLCAC, undertaking forensic analysis of the extensive recordings, transcriptions, historic materials, lexical database, morphology, dictionary, sketch grammar and phonology.

Denise was awarded an OAM in 2023.

