

Language information from AUSTLANG (<http://austlang.aiatsis.gov.au>)

**AIATSIS Code:** L3

**AIATSIS reference name:** Kurna

[Comment]

Comment:

**Status:** Confirmed

[Name]

#### Standard names used in different sources

- **ABN:** Kurna language
- **ABS:** Kurna
- **Horton:** Kurna
- **Ethnologue:**
- **ISO 639-3 code:**
- **Tindale:** Kurna
- **Thesaurus:** Kurna language (L3) (SA SI54-09)

#### Other names/spellings used for this language

**Tindale (1974):** Kaura (misprint for Kurna), Coorna, Koornawarra, Nantuwarra ('Kangaroo speakers,' name given to northern hordes), Nantuwaru, Nganawara, Meljurna ('quarrelsome men,' said of northern hordes of Kurna), Kurumidlanta (Pangkala term, lit. 'evil spirits'), Milipitingara (MS), Midlanta (another name given by Pangkala), Widninga (Ngadjuri term applied to Kurna of Port Wakefield and Buckland Park), Winaini (horde north of Gawler), Winnay-nie, Meyu ([ˈmeju] = man), Wakanuwan (name applied by Jarildekald to this and some other tribes, including Ngaiawang), 'Adelaide tribe,' Warra (means 'speech' a name for language), Warrah, Karnuwarra ('hills language,' a northern dialect, presumably that of Port Wakefield), Jaitjawa:ra ('our own language'), Padnaindi (horde name), Padnayndie, Medaindi (horde living near Glenelg), Medain-die, Merildekald (Tanganekald term also loosely given to Peramangk), Merelde (Ramindjeri term applied most frequently to the Peramangk but also to the Kurna).

**O'Grady et al (1966):** Kaura, Coorna, Koornawarra, Nganawara, Kurumidlanta, Milipitingara, Widninga, Winnaynie, Meyu

**Other sources:**

**[Classification]**

**AIATSIS classification (tentative):** Pama-Nyungan family Thura-Yura group subgroup

<u>Source</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Sub-group</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
<u>Ethnologue (2005)</u>					
<u>Dixon (2002)</u>		SPENCER GULF BASIN AREAL GROUP		Kaurna, Nantuwara	Kadli Teichelmann and SchÄ¼rmann (1840) dialects: Kaurna, Nantuwara, Ngadjuri, Narangka, Nukunu
<u>Walsh (1981)</u>	Pama-Nyungan	South-West Southern	Yura	Kaurna	
<u>Oates (1975)</u>	Pama-Nyungan	Western Desert Type	Yura	Gaurna	
<u>Wurm (1972)</u>	Pama-Nyungan	Southwest (or Nyungic)	Yura	Kaurna	
<u>O'Grady, Voegelin &amp; Voegelin (1966)</u>	Pama-Nyungan	Southwest	Yura	Kaurna	

**[Location]**

**State:** SA

**Location:** Adelaide Plain (Amery 1995)

Cape Jervis to Port Wakefield along eastern shore of Gulf St. Vincent; inland to near Crystal Brook, Snowtown, Blyth, Hoyleton, Hamley Bridge, Clarendon, Gawler, and Myponga; from the east side of the Hummock Range to Red Hill where northern hordes were sometimes known as the Nantuwara. Inland the Jultiwira or stringy bark forests of the Mount Lofty Ranges marked their boundary (Tindale 1974)

The Map in Amery 2000 extends to north of Crystal Brook.

**Maps:**

Tindale, Norman. 1974. Tribal Boundaries in Aboriginal Australia. Canberra: Division of National Mapping, Department of National Development.

Berndt, Ronald , Berndt, Catherine and Stanton, John. 1993. A world that was : the Yaraldi of the Murray River and the Lakes, South Australia. Carlton, VIC: Melbourne University Press at the Miegunyah Press.

Amery, Rob. 2000. Warrabarna Kaurna! : reclaiming an Australian language. Lisse, Netherlands: Swets & Zeitlinger.

**[Documentation]**

Documentation information is based on materials held at AIATSIS and also listed in OZBIB (a linguistic bibliography of Aboriginal Australia and Torres Strait Islands). Click 'Search MURA' and 'Search OZBIB' under the 'Resource' tab to view these materials. [Click here](#) to read the details of documentation scoring system.

**Documentation score (0-16) = 4**

Type	Documentation Status	Documentation Score
<u>Word list</u>	Small (20-100 pages)	2
Text Collection	None	0
<u>Grammar</u>	Sketch grammar (less than 100 pages)	2
Audio-visual	None	0

**Manuscripts/field notes in the AIATSIS library:**

Check Nekes MF4

**Grammar:**

C.G. Teichelmann & C.W. Schurmann. 1840. Outlines of a grammar, vocabulary, and phraseology, of the Aboriginal language of South Australia, spoken by the natives in and for some distance around Adelaide published by the authors at the Native Location, Adelaide. Adelaide: the Authors.

**Dictionary:**

Amery, Rob and Simpson, Jane. 2003. Warra Kurna: a resource for Kurna language programs. Adelaide: Kurna Language Program.

[Speaker]

**History of speaker numbers:**

<u>Oates 1973</u>	<u>Senate 1984</u>	<u>Schmidt 1990</u>	<u>Census 1996</u>	<u>Census 2001</u>	<u>NILS 2004</u>	<u>2005 estimate</u>	<u>Census 2006</u>
0	-	-	-	-	??	-	34

Other: -

**NILS language proficiency and usage scale:**

1-19 years	20-39 years	40-59 years	60+
-	-	-	-

**NILS endangerment Grade (0-5):**

0

[Program]

**Past and current activities:** Ngarrindjeri, Narrunga and Kurna Languages Project made a tape with songs

(1990). Narungga People's Language Project has been running a language revival project. South Australia. Education Dept produced a teacher's guide in 1988.

**People who recorded or did research extensively:** Rob Amery, C.W. SchÄ¼rmann, Jane Simpson, C.G. Teichelmann, Kurna Warra Pintyandi

**Information as on DATE:** 2010-08-31 15:49:52