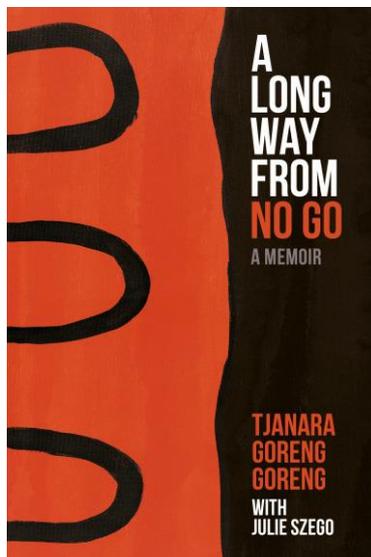


MEDIA RELEASE

High profile Catholics muzzle Aboriginal abuse survivor.



Dr. Tjanara Goreng Goreng's controversial and lauded memoir, 'A Long Way from No Go', has been the subject of sustained attacks from senior people within the Catholic Church, academia and the Aboriginal community relating to her revelations of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy in Longreach and Rockhampton from the age of five.

Tjanara's evidence led to the 1995 conviction and jailing of Catholic priest Leo Wright in Queensland. She is one of the few Aboriginal women to expose the Catholic Church's decades-long abuse of vulnerable Aboriginal children. Not even the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse in Institutions uncovered the extent of abuse in Aboriginal communities.

In her memoir, which was longlisted for this year's Walkley Book Award, Tjanara names for the first time two deceased Queensland priests, Fr. Mick Hayes and Fr. Grove Johnson as having sexually abused her as a child.

Since publication, a campaign of intimidation has been conducted against event organisers, the publisher Wild Dingo Press, the authors and the media including the ABC and the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin in an attempt to have the truth suppressed.

Their malicious actions have caused one of Tjanara's scheduled events to be cancelled. There have been assertions that Tjanara's claims against Hayes and Johnson are lies and that she's a fantasist. They attack almost every line in the chapters recalling her early childhood as inaccurate or fabricated. However, Tjanara stands by her memoir as a true and accurate account of the traumatic experiences she has suffered.

Tjanara holds a PhD in Leadership from the Australian National University. She has had a long career in academia, and as a Policy Advisor in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Social Policy Unit and in Commonwealth and State Public Services, rising to an acting Senior Executive in Indigenous Affairs policy.

The authors and publisher demand that the campaign against her cease and that she be given the right of free speech which has been so long denied to Aboriginal women and survivors of sexual abuse.

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