

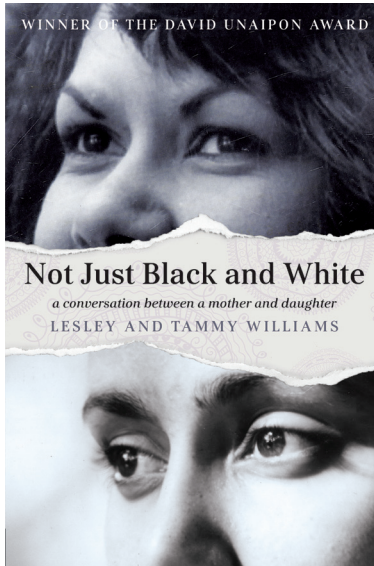
NOT JUST BLACK AND WHITE: *a conversation between a mother and a daughter*

Memoir

Lesley and Tammy Williams

Memoir | ISBN: 978 0 7022 5384 3 | September 2015 | C-format paperback | 344pp | \$32.95

MEDIA RELEASE



Credit Ranald Simmons



**LESLEY AND TAMMY
WILLIAMS**
are available for interview

To request a review copy or to arrange an interview, please contact:
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Following in the footsteps of esteemed writers Doris Pilkington, Tara June Winch and Ellen Van Neerven, Lesley and Tammy Williams were last year's winner of the David Unaipon Award.

Their winning manuscript *Not Just Black and White: a conversation between a mother and a daughter*, follows Lesley and Tammy's remarkable journey.

Lesley Williams is forced to leave the Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement and her family at a young age to work as a domestic servant. Apart from pocket money, Lesley never sees her wages – they are kept 'safe' for her and for countless others just like her. She is taught not to question her life, until desperation makes her start to wonder, where is all that money she earned? And so begins a nine-year journey for answers. Lesley also loses her husband to suicide and is faced with the challenges of raising her three children as a single parent.

Inspired by her mother's quest, a teenage Tammy Williams enters a national writing competition with an essay about injustice. The winning prize takes Tammy and Lesley to Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch and ultimately to the United Nations in Geneva. Along the way, they find courage they never thought they had and friendship in the most unexpected places.

Not Just Black and White is an extraordinary memoir about two women, striving for equality and determined to make sure history is not forgotten. As Lesley reflects in the book:

'I hope that by sharing my story I will connect with other people. Although on the surface the lives of others might appear so different to mine, I'm sure that many other Australians – from all different walks of life will have had similar experiences to me as a young woman, then as a wife (widowed because of my husband's suicide) and later as a mother. There are some themes in life that are universal – they relate to all of us, despite our so-called differences.'

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Lesley Williams is a respected Murri (Aboriginal) Elder. She is best known for instigating the domestic and international Justice for Aboriginal Workers campaign. In 2002 this campaign resulted in the Queensland State Government delivering an historic reparation package of \$55.4 million to all Indigenous workers who had their wages and savings controlled by past governments. In 2003 she was awarded the Centenary Medal for her distinguished services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. She is a proud 'Nana' to six grandchildren.

Tammy Williams is a Murri woman and was admitted as a barrister in 2002. Her legal career includes Commonwealth prosecutor and appointments to quasi-judicial bodies. She has been a member of the National Human Rights Consultative Committee and in 2003 was named the Queensland Women Lawyers Association Emergent Lawyer of the Year.