



DR TJANARA GORENG GORENG

Consultant, Systems and People Transformation

Executive Leadership Coach and Mentor

Cultural Systemic Change Practitioner

Psychotherapist

Researcher and Writer

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Professional Profile

Tjanara is a Wakka Wakka/Wulli Wulli Elder and Traditional Custodian of the Djawan Djumbe Nation of Central Queensland. She carries the traditions of her clan through medicine practice, being a Songwoman and teaching Law & Spirituality within Australia and internationally. Tjanara's practice is underpinned by her deep expertise and wealth of experience. As well as being an artist, published poet, acclaimed author and keynote speaker, her extraordinary career spans community development, academic research, psychotherapy, healing practice and education, activism in social and public policy and commentary, political candidacy and national and international First Nations Affairs advocacy.

As the co-founder and Principal Consultant of OneINMA Global www.oneinmaglobal.org - a systems and people transformation group - Tjanara brings unique experience in using sacred leadership concepts to transform leaders and their organisations. OneINMA's holistic programs build on Tjanara's extensive experience in designing and delivering holistic executive leadership, coaching and mentoring in Australia and internationally. Additionally, Tjanara co-founded and chairs the Foundation for Indigenous Recovery and Development Australia – www.firda.online.

Tjanara's mission is facilitating cultural systemic change through sacred leadership practice. She is committed to bridging the intersection between First Nations ancient knowledge and higher levels of thinking, doing and being that exist in sacred leadership, drawing on her doctoral research.

Areas of Expertise

- Sacred Leadership Practice
- Executive Leadership, Coaching and Mentoring (Certified Consultant, The Leadership Circle)
- Public and Social Policy encompassing co-design/program development, evaluation and monitoring, auditing cultural competency and cultural safety programs and investigating diversity strategies
- Academic Research and Teaching
- Community Development, Consultation and Strategy Design.
- Psychotherapy, Counselling, Family Systems Therapy, Non-Shaming Therapy for Abuse and Violence Recovery
- Indigenous Meditation, Yoga and Healing Practice.
- Cultural Competency, Safety and Security Strategies

Education

- PhD, 'Tjukurpa Pulka – The Road to Eldership - How Aboriginal Culture Creates Sacred and Visionary Leaders' Australian National University, conferred 2018
- Post Graduate Diploma in Management, Melbourne Business School, 2008
- Master of Social Administration, University of Queensland, 2003
- Graduate Certificate of Social Science (Counselling), Australian Catholic University, 1997
- Diploma of Teaching, Australian Catholic University, 1977

Achievements

- Finalist in the Walkley Book Awards for 'A Long Way from NoGo' 2019
- Aboriginal Arts Board Grant for completion of 'The Red Earth' a novel 2010-2012
- Finalist in the David Unaipon Queensland Premiers Literary Awards 2010
- National Australia Bank - Indigenous Scholarship Executive MBA Melbourne Business School 2007-2008
- The Reg Saunders Scholarship, National RSL Award for an Indigenous person studying in the drug and alcohol field. Master of Social Administration (Community Development) University of Queensland 1999 - 2001

Expertise

One INMA Global Consultancies

Tjanara has consulted to major Australian and international companies providing transformational leadership interventions working with C-suite, executive and middle managers to transform communication, management and leadership. Her clients range from large energy and resources companies to federal government departments, national cultural institutions and international leadership training consultancies. For the Oxford Leadership Academy, Tjanara has delivered coaching and self-managing programs for senior executives in India, Mexico, Italy and France.

Her Indigenous Affairs consultancies include the development of Reconciliation Action Plans for universities and not for profits and strategic and business planning, research and program design for several government agencies. She has delivered cultural competency training for family services NGOs.

Government/Public Policy/Political Roles

State and Commonwealth Government roles form a core plank of Tjanara's career. Roles to senior executive level spanning Indigenous policy, community engagement and social policy across diverse agencies inform her insights into the public policy process and position her strongly as a commentator on national and international First Nations affairs. After standing in 2019 as a candidate for the ACT Greens, Tjanara was the ACT Senate candidate for the Greens in the 2022 Federal election and is currently the national Co-Convenor of the Australian Greens First Nations Network.

University Sector

Tjanara has been an academic lecturer and researcher at seven major Australian universities in her fields of Indigenous Studies and Counselling/Social Work and Public Policy Leadership. She has been the Foundation Director of Aboriginal Education at Charles Sturt University and Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Education at the University of Melbourne.

Community Sector/Board Roles

Tjanara brings over three decades of experience in Board-related roles flowing from her roles in the community sector. She has served as a board member and Chair across community sector Boards and been appointed to several Ministerial Advisory Councils in the ACT. Tjanara was a member of the United Nations Indigenous People's Organisation in Australia and attended successive UN meetings of Indigenous peoples. She established the Foundation for Indigenous Recovery & Development Australia and remains actively involved as its National Convenor.

Healing Practice and Advocacy

Drawing on her qualifications in social work, counselling and psychotherapy, Tjanara has trained psychologists and social workers in trauma and family systems therapy and culturally safe counselling practices for Indigenous Australians. She is sought after as a keynote speaker at national and international conferences focusing on community crises, healing and Indigenous Spirituality and Wisdom. Her private practice in Non-Shaming Therapy focuses on recovery from trauma in childhood, abuse, addiction and family violence based in the ACT.

In 2000, Tjanara cofounded the Foundation for Indigenous Recovery FIRDA with three other First Nations women from her community and their Elders. Tjanara volunteers as FIRDA's Chair and works with the National Convenor and National Programs Manager in providing volunteer services to First Nations communities through advocacy, cultural recovery programs and education and training of professionals and volunteer therapeutic programs for First Nations families. OneINMA Global supports the Foundation through profit sharing.

FIRDA's patrons are Elders from the Wakka Wakka, Koombumerri and Anangu Clans of Australia. The organisation provides training programs for non-First Nations practitioners who work in counselling, mental health, psychology, psychiatry and health services and First Nations people seeking to upskill in cultural recovery, cultural safety and competency in their organisations. FIRDA provides weekend wellness retreats for First Nations women focused on cultural recovery & ceremony and for Non-First Nations women on Women's Business and how to live it through understanding First Nations women's cultural business.