

# Media Release



## Karla Grant's pioneering contribution to journalism recognised with major Walkley and First Nations Media Awards

***SBS World News, The Feed and Living Black also win awards at events held on Thursday night.***

24 November 2023

Presenter, producer and journalist, and proud Western Arrernte woman, Karla Grant, has been honoured for her Outstanding Contribution to Journalism at the 68th Walkley Awards for Excellence in Journalism, and on the same night also received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the First Nations Media Awards, in recognition of more than three decades of leadership in Indigenous affairs coverage in Australia.



*Karla Grant, Executive Producer and Host, Living Black*

Grant, the Executive Producer and host of NITV's *Living Black* - the longest running Indigenous current affairs show on Australian television and a program she was instrumental in establishing at SBS more than 20 years ago - has been at the forefront of investigating and elevating issues impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The awards acknowledge the work Grant has done throughout her career to explore and uncover stories of national importance which have shone a light on social disadvantage and



injustice, and given a voice to First Nations communities. From extensive reporting on Country, to presenting in studio, and her insightful interviews, Grant has interrogated the systems and policies impacting First Nations peoples, held power to account, and celebrated Blak excellence. She has also continued to actively champion greater representation in the industry and career pathways for emerging Indigenous journalists.

"It's a remarkable achievement to receive these two prestigious accolades," said **SBS Managing Director, James Taylor**. "Congratulations to Karla for this well-deserved recognition of her pivotal contribution to the media's coverage of First Nations stories, and impact on the wider media landscape.

"Throughout her career, Karla has worked tirelessly to provide a voice for the voiceless, and to ensure the issues being experienced in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are recognised as matters of significance for all Australians. Her dedication is underpinned by her integrity, kindness and empathy, which are among the reasons she is trusted by communities and widely respected by her peers, and extends beyond the screen through her active support for future generations of Indigenous journalists.

"Congratulations to the SBS teams for awards across news and current affairs at the Walkleys, and further recognition for *Living Black* at the First Nations Media Awards. I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate our deserving nominees and acknowledge all those across the SBS network who contribute to delivering our distinctive, constructive and impactful Australian journalism, every day. Thank you for your dedication to your craft, our audiences, and to each other."

*SBS World News'* coverage providing a unique global perspective for Australians was recognised, with SBS's Chief International Correspondent, Ben Lewis and producer Colin Cosier receiving the Walkley Award for **Television/Video: News Reporting** for their compelling coverage reflecting on the impact of the ongoing conflict in the Ukraine for *SBS World News* in 'Ukraine: One Year On'.

Gavin Blyth, Michelle Elias, Jennifer Luu and Jodie Noyce from SBS's current affairs team at *The Feed* won the Walkley Award for **Television/Video: Current Affairs Short (under 20 minutes)**, for their two-part investigation into Australia's hidden incel community, *Uncovering Incels*. Speaking to current and former incels, they gained unique access to peel back the curtain on the movement of celibate men.

The First Nations Media Awards celebrate exceptional achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander media, and at the gala dinner in Canberra last night, NITV's *Living Black* was also recognised as the **Best News and Current Affairs Program** for 2023, in the same year the show marked its two-decade broadcasting milestone. The program was also awarded **Best Interview** for 'Deborah Cheetham: Forging Her Own Path', for Grant's in-depth interview with the Yorta Yorta Soprano and actor.



**ENDS**

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**NOTE TO EDITORS**

**About Karla Grant:**

Karla Grant is an Australian presenter, producer and journalist, and proud Western Arrernte woman, with an extensive media career that spans over 30 years, working primarily in Indigenous news and current affairs for NITV and SBS. She is a known and respected voice in Australian media and a spokesperson for Indigenous affairs.

Karla joined SBS in 1995 as a producer, reporter, director and presenter on the network's Indigenous news and current affairs program *ICAM*, which won a Walkley Award during her time. In 2003, Karla commenced her most recognisable role as the iconic host and Executive Producer of NITV's *Living Black*.

Karla has achieved widespread recognition and acclaim over the course of her career. She has received the First Nations Media Award for Best Interview three times for her outstanding conversations with former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, the legendary Uncle Jack Charles and Senator Patrick Dodson, in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively. Also in 2018, Karla was the joint winner of the John Newfong Award for Outstanding Indigenous Affairs Reporting for *The Point* at the Kennedy Awards. In 2020, she again was awarded the John Newfong Award for Outstanding Indigenous Affairs Reporting for *Living Black*, as well as a First Nations Media Award for Best News or Current Affairs Story for *Living Black*'s 'Aboriginal Lives Matter' documentary.

In 2021, Karla and the *Living Black* team won their first Walkley Award for Coverage of Indigenous Issues and an Amnesty International Media Award for Indigenous Reporting.

Karla has worked across the SBS Network in news and current affairs filing for *SBS World News*, as guest host for *Insight* and reported for *Dateline*. She has also presented *NITV News* and *Nula* as backup host, reported segments for *The Point* and hosted *The Point in Review*. Since 2019 she has hosted *Karla Grant Presents* and this year has celebrated 20 years producing and hosting *Living Black* – the longest running Indigenous current affairs program on Australian television.





SBS acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia.