

SIMPLY ING

A Wirlomin Noongar Elder's heartfelt and emotionally engaging story of resilience and reconnection to her culture, language and identity

'Ing is complex, in the way of some of the best people. And this is a book written by, and about, one of the best people.' – Kim Scott

Born Ellie Nellie on an Aboriginal reserve in Australia's south-west, Ing received her nickname from her family. Removed from her loving parents under government policy at the age of five and placed in a nearby mission, she was not only denied her history and culture but her name was changed to Helen. When her parents died, she had the responsibility of caring for her younger brother and sister. Ing needed to be strong to survive.

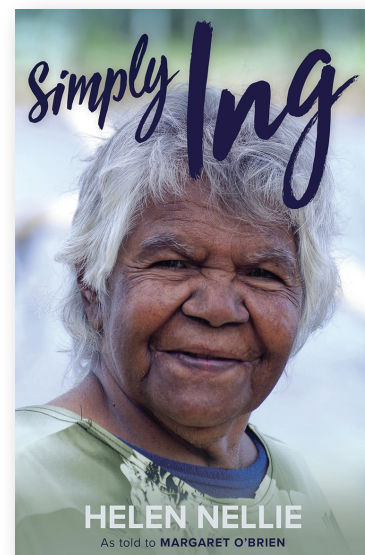
Returning to her community when the mission closed, Ing reconciled with being Noongar. Her family taught her culture and language. Ing has lived through many family tragedies. Her honest experiences give insight into her life and Noongar culture as well as the indomitable spirit that keeps her going.

About the authors



Helen (Ing) Nellie is a Wirlomin Noongar Elder. She was born on the outskirts of Borden, a hamlet in WA's South West. She believes she was born on 18 July 1947, although she doesn't possess a birth certificate. A member of the Stolen Generations, Ing's life is a mosaic of tragedy. Forcibly removed from her parents at five years, and again at nine, under then government policy, she was raised in a Baptist Mission. Ing grew up caught between cultures and struggled with her identity. Her involvement in the Wirlomin Language and Stories Project, as well as the telling of her life story, has helped her to cultivate true belonging within the Noongar community. Ing lives in Perth with her husband, Ron.

Margaret O'Brien was born in Norseman in the WA Goldfields in 1948 and grew up in Bunbury. She started writing after retiring from a 45-year nursing career. Her writing took a dramatic turn when she met Helen (Ing) Nellie at the Perth Writer's Festival in 2014 and became her ghostwriter. Margaret is married, a keen bird photographer and is passionate about animal welfare.



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