



Our Reconciliation Statement

We pay respect to the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and acknowledge their connection to their lands, waters and communities. We pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures and to Elders past and present.

We are proud to be on a path of greater awareness and inclusion of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures and we formally and publicly acknowledge our commitment to shaping a more inclusive Australia.

Our vision for reconciliation

The Maternal Health Matters Inc. vision is to embed awareness, acknowledgement and respect of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures within our organisation and to contribute towards a just, equitable and inclusive Australia.

Our unique contribution is to support the wellbeing and safety of all women before, during and after childbirth, and to ensure that they realise their human rights, through the adoption of The Respectful Maternity Care Charter

Maternal Health Matters advocates for programs designed in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, such as the Birthing on Country model of care.

We are also dedicated to finding opportunities within Maternal Health Matters to make a positive contribution to Reconciliation, by ensuring we are an inclusive, supportive and culturally safe organisation.

Our Reconciliation Goals

- Relationships - Deepening positive relationships, built on trust and respect with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, ensures we continue our work towards Reconciliation together. We're committed to creating improved health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through our efforts to achieve respectful maternity care for all women. We can play a role in strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous people, to ensure that we are all working towards reconciliation.
- Respect - Respect is central to our organisation. Reconciliation is ultimately about respect for the histories, the cultures and the connection to land of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Through our actions, we are committing to greater understanding and knowledge of Indigenous cultures and history to ensure we can provide the best possible support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women seeking maternity care.



- Opportunities - We want to ensure every woman has the knowledge she needs to receive the highest level of health and maternity care, and we understand and appreciate that this can be extremely difficult for some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. We are committed to improving maternity care outcomes for women in Australia, through campaigning for increased number of midwifery training positions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Our focus areas are:

- Emphasising respectful maternity care - due regards for the feelings, wishes, and rights of women.
- Improving the autonomy of women – focusing on the woman and respecting her power and control over her own life and her own care.
- Enhancing dignity for women – the right of a woman to be valued and respected for her own sake.

Acknowledgments

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are crucial to developing and implementing meaningful reconciliation. We are very grateful for the guidance of our advisors.

We will continue to receive invaluable insights, learnings and advice from organisations at different stages of their reconciliation journey. We look forward to continuing to work together on our reconciliation journey.