



Maternal Health Matters Inc. Annual Report 2022

In providing this Annual Report we acknowledge and pay respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia, who are the custodians of the land and of the oldest continuous living culture on Earth. We honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' ongoing connection to sea, waterways and Country. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

This year proved to be very busy, with the world coming out of the hibernation of COVID. We are proud of what we have achieved.

The discussion that surrounds achieving respectful maternity care focuses on the overwhelming dilemma of inequity, ending violence against women, the lack of respect for basic human rights and the poor health outcomes for women and their infants. Access to respectful, appropriate, safe, woman centered care during pregnancy, labour, birth and the postpartum are the expectations of our communities, yet often not realised.

We have continued to refine the [Maternal Health Toolbox](#). The toolbox explores:

- What are the elements of maternity care?
- Who provides maternity care in Australia? Your health professional options.
- Choosing your health professional.
- Where to give birth to your baby — your choices.
- The Pregnancy Care Checklist — Australia.

[The Pregnancy Care Checklist](#) — Australia. For the first time, Women in Australia have a tool, based on best available evidence to assist them to receive respectful maternity care. Feedback has been that it helped women achieve best evidence care, for example one woman was concerned she was misdiagnosed with gestation diabetes in the first pregnancy. With the help of the Pregnancy Care Checklist, she advised her treating clinician that she would book her test at the recommended duration of her pregnancy. To her delight she was not diagnosed with gestational diabetes in her second pregnancy and said she wished she had known about the guidelines in her first pregnancy.

Canberra Mothercraft Society Inc, provided funding for us to develop the Right Birth Your Choice workshop into an on-line self-directed learning program, consisting of 4 short videos with built-in opportunity for participants to stop, reflect and plan. The on-line program focuses on the human rights of dignity and autonomy – that is decision making in pregnancy and is aimed at women and their support persons as early in their pregnancy as possible,

- developed utilising principles of adult learning;
- uses open and clear communication; and
- provides appropriate resources for women and their support persons to make informed decisions regarding their maternity care.

Thank you to Mary, Vanessa and Emma for your work on this project.

In August 2021, we entered into a School Research Partnership Agreement with the University of Western Sydney to support the Best Study.



We made a submission in November 2021 to the National Federation Reform Council Taskforce on Women's Safety as well as writing to all relevant Politian's, like organisations and public servants to remind them that the Women's Safety Summit must include maternity care and address concerns related to obstetric violence in any future plan.

The Respectful Maternity Card Postcard has been revamped and a Respectful Maternity Card Poster has been developed. Thank you, Emma, and Catherine. We have a new logo – thank you to Finley Holm.

As 2022 was a federal election year, we wrote to the political parties and independents, [briefing](#) them on the issue women face in the maternity care system.

We have advocated rigorously this year to raise political awareness for social and economic change. It is an ongoing struggle due to the perception that Australia is a safe place to give birth, because women do not die. Yet, mainstream maternity systems based on traditional medical models continue to fail to meet the needs and values of women and their community. Improving outcomes in maternity care requires a primary health model of care, that is a wellness model, through redistribution of funds to evidenced based care, monitoring of outcomes through client reported outcomes of care, system monitoring and accountability through accreditation systems, education and credentialling of maternity professionals on Respectful Maternity Care, service redesign so the services are arranged around the woman, and staff conditions that foster partnership and respect rather than hierarchy is the key to achieving respectful maternity care. Thank you to Mary, Vanessa, and Joan for their commitment to advocacy.

We are grateful to receive two governments grants:

- An ACT Participation (Women's) Grant for \$10,000 to produce a video for health professionals on the elements of Respectful Maternity Care.
- A Commonwealth Government Volunteer Grants 2021 to enhance our online capacity by developing the webpage design and social media skills of our volunteer Board, so as to reach a wider audience.

We presented at the Turning the Tide Breastfeeding Conference:

- The Mother's Tale - Women's Experiences of Maternity Care in Australia.
- With regard or disregard The Childbearing Woman's Paradigm in Contemporary Society

The ANU Gender Institute and Maternal Health Matters Inc. have collaborated to deliver a Seminar Series - *Maternal Health the Hidden Public Health Epidemic*, which explores the impact of maternity on women's wellbeing and the transition to parenting, as we know the postnatal period id neglected in current models of care. I would like to acknowledge Joan, it only with your vision and perseverance that the series came to fruition.

I thank the board for their patience and commitment to the ongoing work in the promotion of best practice for maternal health across Australia.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2022

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Board Members Report

The members of the Board of Maternal Health Matters Inc present their report for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

Directors

The names of the persons who were members of the Board at any time of the year and at the date of this report are as follows:

Ms Ellen O’Keeffe
Ms Emma Monagle

Ms Vanessa Bakker
Ms Catherine Bell

Dr Joan Garvan
Ms Vaness Owen

Ms Mary Kirk AM

Principle Activity

Maternal Health Matters is committed to influencing and supporting the delivery of policies and services for the well-being of women seeking maternity care through the adoption of the Respectful Maternity Care Charter. We work with communities, health services and governments to improve maternal health outcomes for all women in Australia.

Significant Changes

No significant changes in the nature of these activities occurred during the year

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board and on behalf of the Board

E O’Keeffe
President
Canberra
28 November 2022

Mary Kirk
Treasurer
Canberra
28 November 2022



Income and Expenditure – for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Date	Item	\$	\$	\$
1/07/2021	Balance Carried Forward			2770.75
	Income	Grants	Operating	
12/10/2021	Donation – A Storer		50	
18/11/2021	CMS – Payment 1	18000		
7/01/2022	ACT Volunteer Grants	5000		
22/03/2022	GST Refund		139	
26/04/2022	Donation - P Lynch		50	
12/05/2022	Women's Safety Grant	11,000.00		
29/06/2022	Donation – E O'Keeffe		1,000.00	
30/06/2022	Donation – E O'Keeffe		1,094.00	
30/06/2022	Donation – E O'Keeffe		1,161.95	
30/06/2022	Total Receipts	33,000	3494.95	3494.95
	Expenditure			
10/10/2021	GoDaddy - cPanel Renewal, Microsoft 365 Starter and Essential Website Backup		315	
10/02/2022	Professional actors and data recovery by CDFS – Hard drive recovery		1,094.00	
2/04/2022	GoDaddy – Domain Name		21.95	
22/04/2022	AON - Directors and Office Bearers Insurance		825	
3/06/2022	Harvey Norman – PC + setup	1299		
17/06/2022	Coordinate – Payment 1	11,000.00		
	Total Expenditure	12299	2255.95	-2255.95
	Balance	20,701		
30/06/2021	Operating surplus for the year			4009.75



Balance Sheet - For the Period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

	Assets	\$
Current Assets		4,009.75
Non-Current Assets		0.00
Total Assets		
	Liabilities	\$
Current Liabilities		0.00
Non-Current Liabilities		0.00
Total Liabilities		0.00
Net Assets		
Equity		4,009.75
Opening Balance	2770.75	2770.75
Net Surplus (deficit) for the period		1239.00
TOTAL Equity		4,009.75

Cash Flow Statement - For the Period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Cash flows from operating activities		
Balance carried forward		\$2770.75
Income – GST Refund		\$139.00
Donations		\$3355.95
Donations in kind		0
Net expenditure from operating activities		(\$2255.95)
Cash at 30 June 2021		\$4009.75



Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2022

Summary of significant accounting policies

The body was formed in 2009 and is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1991, ACT. It is registered on the Australian Business Register. The Australian Business Number is 3143292475. The incorporation is registered for Goods & Services Tax purposes. The incorporation is registered as an income tax exempt charity, as a deductible gift recipient and is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The Board has determined that Maternal Health Matters is a small charity and therefore not a reporting entity.

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the notes to financial statements and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

- AASB 101, Presentation of Financial Statements
- AASB 108, Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
- AASB 1048, Interpretation of Standards
- AASB 1054, Australian Additional Disclosures

The financial report has been prepared on a cash basis. The following accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous reporting period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in preparation of this financial report.

- **Income Tax** - The incorporation is registered as an income tax exempt charity with the Australian Taxation Office. Consequently, no provision for taxation has been made in the financial statements.
- **Cash and Cash Equivalents** – includes cash on hand and deposits held at call with financial institutions.
- **Trade and other creditors** – represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the incorporation to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid.
- **Investments** – The incorporation has no investments.



Statement by the Board for the year ended 30 June 2022

In the opinion of the Board the financial report:

- The financial statements and notes set out in this financial report are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including
 - Complying with the accounting policies outlined in the Notes to the financial statements, and
 - Complying with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013

- Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Maternal Health Matters Inc incorporated at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1991

- At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Maternal Health Matters Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is signed for and on behalf of the Board

E O'Keeffe
President

Mary Kirk
Treasurer

Canberra
8 November 2022

Canberra
8 November 2022