



Maternal Health Matters Inc. Annual Report 2023

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,

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 is gaining traction in the wider community. 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 published the Your Body Your Birth Your Choice video series. We are pleased to inform you of our most recent project – the Your Body. Your birth. Your choice, video series. The series is based on the principles of Respectful Maternity Care. We aim to provide women with the knowledge to achieve respectful maternity care through supporting their capacity to make informed decisions. While we cannot guarantee they will have the pregnancy they plan, we can help to maximise their capacity to be a key informant in their care and decide the right maternity care they need. That is the right amount of care, offered at the right time, and delivered in a manner that respects, protects, and promotes your human rights. The video series is complemented by the Right Birth – Your Choice Workbook. Thank you to Emma Monagle, Mary Kirk and Vanessa Baker for your efforts, and to Canberra Mothercraft Society for funding the initiative.

We continue to produce podcast exploring the elements of respectful maternity care and very much appreciate the generosity of those interviewed and Joan Garvan's commitment to facilitating the discussions.

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 is neglected in current models of care. This year we held seminars in November 2022 –Maternal Health the Hidden Public Health Epidemic and March 2023 - Birthing Work and Matrescence. I would like to acknowledge Joan's work to achieve the seminar series.

Parliamentary friends. We have been busy liaising with the parliamentarians to establish a Parliamentary Friends for Maternal Health Group. The group was established in June 2023. It is intended that this Group will provide a non-partisan forum for parliamentarians to meet and interact with government and non-government organisations and associations on matters relating to maternal health and care during pregnancy and transitioning to mothering and the issues faced by women receiving maternity care, and what the parliament can do address this. The Co-Chairs are Ms Alicia Payne MP, Ms Helen Haines MP and Mr Llew O'Brien MP. We appreciate and welcome their support for improved maternal health and respectful maternity care. We look forward to our first meeting later in 2023.

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We have continued to advocate for maternity services that promote the full wellbeing of women. We have met with politicians, health departments and like-minded organisations. The need for reform cannot be overstated to ensure that the health of mothers is safeguarded through the provision of respectful maternity care taking a primary health approach that, promotes normal physiological process and provides comprehensive woman-centred, relationship-based care. thank you to Mary, Vanessa, and Joan for their commitment to advocacy.

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.

This year we made submissions to public enquires and responded to relevant surveys, including:

- A submission to the Senate - Standing Committees on Community Affairs - Universal Access to Reproductive Healthcare. In May 2023 the report - Ending the postcode lottery: Addressing barriers to sexual, maternity, and reproductive healthcare in Australia. We welcome the inclusion of maternity care in the report and the recommendations related to improving access to maternity care.
- A submission to the Early Years Strategy 2023 reinforcing that the mother-baby dyad must be respected and supported from the moment of conception. If we are to get the first 5 years right - we need to get maternity care right and that the early years strategy must include a focus on maternal wellbeing.
- The Federal Government has undertaken to develop Australian Living Guidelines for Pregnancy and Postnatal Care. We are taking an active interest in the development of the guidelines and have contributed to surveys, made a submission and provided comment.
- The review of Woman-centred care – Strategic directions for Australian maternity services. The Report Monitoring and evaluation services for Woman-centred care – Strategic directions for Australian maternity services - outlines existing activities and outcomes under the Woman-centred Care Strategy referenced our Dignity Survey Report.

We continue to be involved with The World Health Organisation workshops and committees, including:

- Assisted vaginal birth: Research needs and gaps - Women's views and perspectives undertaken by the Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research Maternal and Perinatal Health (MPH) Unit.
- Development of a core outcome set for maternal and perinatal epidemiological research, product development, and post-authorisation surveillance during disease outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics. This work is ongoing.

Thank you to Vanessa Bakker for her contribution to this work.

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We received an ACT Women's Safety Grant in May 2022 and delivered the Final Report on 30 March 2023. With the grant funding we produced consumer education videos and a health professional education video that is currently in production.

I would like to acknowledge Catherine Bell. Catherine is ending her time on the Board. Thank you, Catherine, for all you contributed. Every time we look at the MHM Poster we will think of you.

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

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2023

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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 2023.

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 2023

Mary Kirk
Treasurer
Canberra
28 November 2023



Maternal Health Matters Incorporated

Income and Expenditure

General operating– for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Income	2022 - 2023
Donations	1,108.10
GST Refund	1,269.00
Total	2,287.10
Expenditure	
Donation	244.50
Gratuities	200.00
Communications and IT	1,166.06
Insurance	859.10
Total	2,469.66
Profit (Loss)	(182.56)

Grants Income and Expenditure – for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Income	2021-2022	2022-2023
Canberra Mothercraft Society	11,000.00	15,095.00
ACT Participation (Womens) Grant		5,000.00
ACT Womens Safety Grant		11,000.00
Maternal Health Matters		244.50
Total	11,000.00	31,339.50
Expenditure		
Canberra Mothercraft Society	11,000.00	15,095.00
ACT Participation (Women's) Grant		4,658.00
ACT Women's Safety Grant		11,000.00
Maternal Health Matters		244.50
Total	11,000.00	30,997.50
Profit (Loss)	00.00	342.00



Balance Sheet - For the Period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

	Assets	\$
Current Assets		4169.19
Non Current Assets		0.00
Total Assets		4169.19
	Liabilities	\$
Current Liabilities		0.00
Non Current Liabilities		0.00
Total Liabilities		0.00
Net Assets		
Equity		4169.19
Opening Balance		4,009.75
Net Surplus (deficit) for the period		159.44
TOTAL Equity		4169.19

Cash Flow Statement - For the Period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Cash flows from operating activities		\$
Balance carried forward		4,009.75
Income – GST Refund		1,269.00
Donations		1018.10
Donations in kind		0
Net expenditure from operating activities		(2469.66)
Cash at 30 June 2023		4169.19

Donors - for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Joan Garvin
Mary Kirk
Ellen O'Keeffe



Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2023

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.



Audit Report 2022 - 2023

Maternal Health Matters Inc
GPO Box 165
CANBERRA ACT 2601

2 November 2023

AUDIT REPORT

I have audited the Financial Records of Safe Motherhood for All Incorporated for the year ending 30 June 2023.

The Maternal Health Matters Inc. is responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the organisation's Financial Report. This includes the responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the Financial Reports.

I performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects, the Financial Report presents fairly the Financial Position of the organisation as at 30 June 2019, and its Financial Performance for the year ended at that date.

AUDIT OPINION

In my opinion the Financial Report of Safe Motherhood for All Incorporated gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the organisation at 30 June 2023, and of its performance for the year ended on that date.

Sincerely,

Carmel McQueen PhD



Statement by the Board for the year ended 30 June 2023

Financial Statement for the year ended 30 June 2023

Statement by the Board

In the opinion of the Board the financial report:

- Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Maternal Health Matters Inc incorporated at 30 June 2023 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

Handwritten signature of Ellen O'Keeffe in blue ink.

E O'Keeffe
President

Canberra
7 November 2023

Handwritten signature of Mary Kirk in black ink.

Mary Kirk
Treasurer

Canberra
7 November 2023