

Indigenous Midwives for Tomorrow

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Rhodanthe Lipsett Indigenous Midwifery Charitable Fund

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Message from the chair...

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Rhodanthe Lipsett Indigenous Midwifery Charitable Fund. The newsletter has been established to share some of the wonderful things the board has been up to.

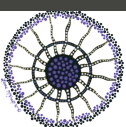
We hope the newsletter will be biannual and provide information of our scholarships.

Over the past twelve months the Board has undertaken several changes including the departure of original Directors and welcoming new (and past) Directors. I want to thank immensely Donna Hartz, Hannah Dahlen, Steven Miller, and Pat Brodie for their dedication to RLIMCF since its beginning, your diligence and commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander maternal health and midwifery workforce is to be commended. I would like to also thank Leona McGrath for stepping back onto the Board to cover the Chair role while away on maternity leave. You have done so much to highlight the Aboriginal midwifery workforce, so many changes have come through your work and I know there are many Aboriginal midwives and students that admire you for that and are thankful.

It's hard to believe that already we are nearing the end of the year. One thing I have learnt about this year is that although times are tough, we can lean on each other when need. The same can be said for the deadly team (Ann, Renae & Machellee) working tirelessly together to implement Rhodanthe Lipsett's dream for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to have improved pregnancy and birth outcomes by having the benefit of care from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander midwives.

Thank you

Cherisse | ISSUE 1





Artwork by Aunty Kath
<https://kathleenbuzzacott.com.au/>

Board member changes

Recently, Pat Brodie and Steven Millar have resigned as board members. We are very grateful for the important influence and support they have provided to the fund since its inception, eight years ago.

Leona McGrath, proud Kuku Yalanji and Woopaburra woman, has re-joined the board and brings with her a great deal of knowledge and experience. Renae Coleman, proud Darug woman, joined the board last year and has taken on the role of treasurer. The board extends their thanks and gratitude to Christina Steadman for her support and guidance she has offered during the transition of the new board members.

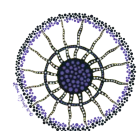
Currently our board members are:

Cherisse Buzzacott (Chair), Machellee Kosiak, Ann Kinnear (Secretary), Leona McGrath, and Renae Coleman (Treasurer)

Some words from Pat

Once again, can I say how overwhelmed I was to receive the beautiful painting and your words of appreciation conveyed on behalf of the Rhodanthe Lipsett Indigenous Midwifery Charitable Trust. (see photo). I am incredibly proud to have been associated with the many Directors, partners and associates on what has been a shared commitment to increasing the number of Indigenous midwives across the country. Every year, since becoming incorporated in 2011, we have provided scholarships to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander midwifery students and graduates to help increase the number of Indigenous midwives. I thank all who have contributed to the Trust's successes and given so generously to enable its continued growth and development. I wish you and the new Board every success in providing scholarships to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to complete their studies and become qualified midwives, thereby assisting the Indigenous midwifery workforce to contribute to 'Closing the Gap' in health outcomes for Indigenous mothers and babies.

Warm regards
Pat Brodie





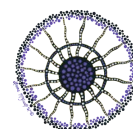
Scholarship recipient: Tyra McEwen

My name is Tyra, I am a proud Bundjalung woman currently living in Sydney to undertake a Bachelor of Midwifery at UTS. I am passionate about being able to make a difference to the lives of many, in particular Aboriginal families and becoming a registered Midwife will allow me to do that.

This scholarship will provide financial assistance that will go towards purchasing textbooks, uniforms and other essential items to complete my degree. This will be greatly beneficial as a full time student living away from home and allow me to focus on my studies with less financial pressure.

Scholarship recipient: Sheree Martin

My name is Sheree Martin. I am a proud Anaiwan woman. I am currently in my 2nd year of the Away from Base Bachelor of Midwifery through the Australian Catholic University based in Brisbane. This scholarship will assist me with childcare fees as well as purchasing some new office supplies to assist with my students.



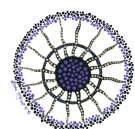


Scholarship recipient: Naomi Notting

My name is Naomi Notting, I am an energetic, ambitious individual who keeps a passion for women's rights in pregnancy, birth and postpartum. I am a mum of three and a proud Gubbi Gubbi woman from the Duungidjawa country. I am currently in my first year of my Bachelor of Midwifery at the University of Canberra.

Scholarship recipient: Brittany Campbell

My name is Brittney, my Aboriginal name is "Jarrak" which means red ochre, given to me by grandfather. I am a proud Kamu and Gurindji woman from Katherine, NT. I recently relocated to Melbourne, Victoria to pursue my degree in Midwifery. I am currently completing my second year at the Australian Catholic University.





Scholarship recipient: Casey Smith

I am a proud Kamilaroi women from St George, Qld. I am in my first year of a Bachelor of Midwifery at the Australian Catholic University through the Indigenous Away from Base Midwifery Program. Becoming a Midwife has been a dream of mine for a few years now, I aim to work with women, their families and health professionals to contribute to the closing the gap initiative.

Scholarship recipient: Kady Colman

My name is Kady Colman, I'm a proud Wiradjuri woman. My passion is working with my mob. I'm in my third and final year of my Bachelor of Midwifery degree. I attend ACU at the Banyo, Brisbane Campus.



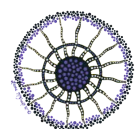


Scholarship recipient: Katie Squires

I am currently studying the Indigenous Bachelor of Midwifery through the Australian Catholic University. I am a proud Gomeri woman and I have 6 beautiful girls. My ultimate goals for achieving Midwifery is so that I can work with women and their families during moments of profound transition and change, I want to be able to empower women to make choices about their bodies that bring them health, confidence and strengths.

Scholarship recipient: Kiara Burns

My name is Kiara Burns, I am a proud Gimuy Wullaburra Yidinji woman from Cairns, Far North Queensland. I grew up in both Yarrabah and Cairns as a child but spent the rest of my schooling years in Cairns with my Mum. Currently I work as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker at a large Aboriginal Medical Service and this year I have finally set out to complete a degree in Midwifery.





Scholarship recipient: Monique Mennie

My name is Monique Mennie and I am a Bundjalung woman, but I was born and raised in Newcastle on Awabakal Country. I am a single mother of two children who are 11 and 4, both boys. I always thought I was not smart enough to attend University, but I have been given the opportunity to fulfil my dream and passion of becoming a midwife through the Australian Catholic University.

Rhodanthe Lipsett's dream is for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to have improved pregnancy and birth outcomes by having the benefit of care from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander midwives. By establishing Rhodanthe Lipsett Indigenous Midwifery Charitable Fund ("The Fund") we aim to make a contribution to both 'a better start in life' and 'Closing the Gap' for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and babies. The role of The Fund is to provide financial assistance in the form of small grants and scholarships to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander midwifery students, to assist them in their study to become midwives. The Fund is inspired by the stories from Indigenous women in Australia, New Zealand and Canada, where Indigenous midwives provide culturally appropriate care in the same language as that of the women accessing care.



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Indigenous Midwifery Charitable Fund**

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