

10 October 2022

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives congratulate Government on commitment to First Nations maternity services centre of excellence

The Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM), including our Elders, leaders and members, welcomes the Albanese Government's 2022-23 Budget commitments to boost spending on First Nations health care and to establish the much-needed self-determined Birthing on Country Centre of Excellence in New South Wales.

CATSINaM welcomes the Albanese Labour Government's \$314.5 million 2022-23 Budget commitment to First Nations health, especially new investment to support Waminda, South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation.

"CATSINaM is very pleased that First Nations health has been front and centre in health budget planning, new and expanded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled health services and investment in traineeships for First Nations health workers are key means through which we, as a nation, will better serve the health needs and expectations for our First Nations communities", said Professor Roianne West, CEO, CATSINaM.

"Of particular importance is the Government's announcement that Waminda, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service, will receive \$22.5 million for Australia's first dedicated Birthing on Country Centre of Excellence in NSW. This investment will go a long way to providing appropriate, self-determined, Culturally Safe care and holistic services for First Nations women, their babies and their families".

"Investment in the unique, strengths-based work of Waminda, is an essential step towards recognising the need for tailored quality First Nations maternity services and to bring about improved health outcomes in maternity care. It is our hope that this service will lead the way in the establishment of many suitably tailored birthing on country services, wherever needed, in the future," she said.

CATSINaM also acknowledges the \$14.2 million announced to combat rheumatic heart disease in high-risk communities and \$45 million to increase renal services for First Nations communities. Working in partnership with First Nations communities should see this investment make a significant difference on the ground.

CATSINaM eagerly awaits announcements progressing all direct health investments and the Government's intention to take immediate action on the implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. We also anticipate progress on their earlier commitment to a referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. Action on these commitments is intrinsically linked to improving the health experiences and outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and will set a promising outlook for future reforms.

-ENDS-

Media Release



More information:

For 25 years, the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM) has acted as the national peak professional organisation representing the collective voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives in Australia. CATSINaM is a not-for-profit Aboriginal community-controlled organisation.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Stacie Murphy
Senior Policy Officer
Stacie.Murphy@catsinam.org.au
0419 919 886