

BIRTHING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Statement of Commitment

Like all mothers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women want a choice in where and with whom they give birth. They also want care that is safe and considerate of the emotional, cultural and spiritual safety of the individual woman.

The 'Birthing in our Community' initiative provides a holistic approach to pre and post natal care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their babies.

This is a statement of commitment between Mater Mothers, the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Care Service.

Accordingly we commit to:

- Implement a long-term plan of action that is targeted at addressing the maternal and perinatal gap in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander mothers and their babies.
- Work collectively to deliver comprehensive care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and their families.
- Provide culturally competent services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their families.
- Achieve improved access to and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander women.
- Respect and promote the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples.
- Recognise the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander perspective and control of these services.
- Measure, monitor and report on our joint efforts, in accordance with benchmarks and targets, to ensure that we are progressively realising our shared ambitions.
- Ensure mothers and babies get the best possible care and support for a good start to life.
- Address the disparities outlined in both the National Maternity Services Plan and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan (2013-2023) which identifies the need to develop and expand culturally competent maternity care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their families.

