



Warm welcome for Federal funding for cultural safety training for nurses and midwives

The Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM), Australia's peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives, today welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that it will provide \$350,000 in funding support for the development of an online cultural safety training program for nurses and midwives (<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarelayr2019-wyatt014.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2019&mth=01>).

Chief Executive Officer of CATSINaM, Janine Mohamed, said: "Cultural safety is integral to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are more likely to seek access to health care and achieve better health outcomes by utilising services that are respectful and culturally safe".

CATSINaM has been working with government and partners for over five years to embed cultural safety into healthcare provision. Cultural safety is a philosophy of practice that is about how a health professional does something, not [just] what they do.... It is about how people are treated in society, not about their diversity as such, so its focus is on systemic and structural issues and on the social determinants of health.... Cultural safety represents a key philosophical shift from providing care regardless of difference, to care that takes account of peoples' unique needs. It requires nurses and midwives to undertake an ongoing process of self-reflection and cultural self-awareness, and an acknowledgement of how a nurse's/midwife's personal culture impacts on care.

The training that will be developed as a result of this funding will help to ensure that nurses and midwives across Australia provide culturally safe care to patients and clients, as well as work respectfully with their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues.

Mrs Mohamed said: "We believe that promoting a framework of cultural safety in health care can improve the recruitment, retention, and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, nurses and midwives, as well as improving access and quality of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients".

While there are many online cultural awareness training programs in Australia, to CATSINAM's knowledge, there are no online training programs focused specifically on cultural safety and health for the nursing and midwifery professions.

Mrs Mohamed added: "The national resource will also support the implementation of the new National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards, which include a requirement for healthcare organisations to develop strategies for improving cultural awareness and cultural competency of the workforce to meet the needs of its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients."

The innovative and interactive online platform for cultural safety training to be developed by CATSINaM will be based on the successful San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training model developed in British Columbia, Canada (<http://www.sanyas.ca/>).

This proven model, which has been used with over 28,000 students in Canada, will be tailored to the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander context.

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