

# Jessica McKenzie

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Curriculum vitae  
15 Forrest street, Blair Athol 5084  
0429 492 188 / jessicamckenzie182@gmail.com

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## Profile

I have always been passionate about the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I have experienced seeing my own family as patients in hospital, and witnessed how much they suffered being away from their country, as well as the effects this had on them whilst they were unwell with minimal supports close by. I've also seen many of my cousins having to relocate away from their community and extended family, to birth in a foreign place. This is where I realised my fascination with women and pregnancy; I am determined to provide all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with options of care that are both culturally safe and clinically competent.

As an Aboriginal woman I am aware of the health inequalities affecting my people, and as a Registered Midwife my goal is to contribute to Closing the Gap throughout the childbirth continuum. My passion is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's, child and family health, and I am planning to undertake additional study; the areas I would like to further develop my understanding include Primary healthcare and maternity care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, in particular Gestational Diabetes, high risk pregnancies, trauma informed care and women birthing on country. Moving forward, whilst furthering my clinical competence, I aspire to progress into clinical leadership and management roles within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

## Employment History

**Company**      **Aboriginal Family Birthing Program, Women's and Children's Health Network, Women's and Children's Hospital**

Oct 2017 – current

**Title**              Registered Midwife – Level 1 (.084 FTE)

**Role profile**    Providing clinical and culturally safe care in an antenatal and postnatal setting to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and families and or women who are pregnant with Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander babies. Working in collaboration with Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Care Practitioners (AMIC) within a model that provides continuity of care to women and their families.

### **Highlights**

- Providing domiciliary care to women and their families within their home assessing neonatal growth and mother's postnatal recovery.
- Advocating, coordinating and liaising with community services through culturally appropriate referrals to extended supports and advocating for vulnerable women and families.

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- Presenting at Grand Round (WCH) in NAIDOC Week about the importance of utilising Aboriginal staff to aid in patient journey and encouraging Aboriginal health to be in Aboriginal hands. Promoting the Aboriginal birthing program models of care and their unique role in providing clinically and culturally safe care.
- Presented at the Transforming Midwifery Practice through Education Conference on the importance of cultural safety and my personal experience as an Aboriginal midwifery student (2017)
- Connecting Mum's Perinatal mental health and trauma education session at Helen Mayo House – Glenside Hospital, Adelaide. Learning about the importance of the Circle of Security for Aboriginal women and mothers and how trauma and mental health concerns can affect this. Learning about child behavioural patterns and family dynamics especially within Aboriginal families.
- Receiving Rheumatic heart disease education service (RHD) by RHD Australia – outlining the definition, diagnosis and treatment of Acute Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic heart disease. Discussing the prevalence and implications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, men and children and during pregnancy.

**Company** **Women's and Babies division, Women's and Children's Health Network, Women's and Children's Hospital**

Feb 2016 – Nov 2017

**Title** Registered Midwife

**Role profile** Employed (0.84 FTE) as a Registered Midwife delivering clinical care across the birthing continuum

**Highlights**

- Nomination, finalist and recipient for the SA Health Excellence Awards – Excellence in practice Aboriginal Nurse/Midwife 2017
- Diverse clinical experience through the antenatal and gynaecology ward, Delivery suite, postnatal ward and Special care nurseries
- Facilitated midwifery students on placement then assessing student on their clinical skills and midwifery theory.
- Facilitating students on Delivery suite during normal vaginal deliveries and attending caesarean sections.

**Company** **Women's and Babies Division, Women's and Children's Health Network, Women's and Children's Hospital**

Feb 2015 – Feb 2016

**Title** Registered Midwife - Transition to Professional Practice Program (TPPP 0.84 FTE)

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## Highlights

- Completion of midwifery graduate program
- Team building skills
- Working with a multidisciplinary team environment
- Time management skills
- Antenatal and Gynaecology, Women's outpatients department, Delivery suite, Postnatal and Special Care Nursery rotation experience.

**Company** School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of South Australia, PHD candidate –  
Angela Brown

2014 April – October 2014

**Title** Research assistant

## Role profile

- Conducting interviews with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to describe and in interpret their experiences birthing their baby within the Women's and Children's Hospital Delivery Suite.  
Women's interviews conducted in conjunction with midwives experiences when caring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

## Highlights

- Further understanding of cultural care based on lived experience.
- This experience has helped me to further develop my knowledge and practice on culturally safe care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women by listening to their maternity needs and concerns when birthing in a metropolitan tertiary hospital.

**Company** Women's and Children's Babies Division, Women's and Children's Hospital  
Mar 2014 – Oct 2014

**Title** Assistant in Midwifery – Undergraduate Midwifery Student (AIM-UMS)

## Role profile

- Conducts routine clinical care duties for women and their babies as delegated and supervised by the Registered Midwife (RM). The AIM-UMS demonstrates appropriate behaviours, which reflect a commitment to WCHN values and strategic directions.

## Highlights

- Understanding policies and protocols of working in a large tertiary institution
- Learning more about Closing the Gap from observation within a tertiary hospital and becoming more after of my passion to work within an Aboriginal Family Birthing Program model of care
- Working within a multidisciplinary team environment

**Company** Prospective Student Advisory team, Flinders University, South Australia

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**Title**                 **Student Ambassador**  
**2012 – 2013**

**Role profile**

- Student Ambassadors provide information about the university at open days, campus tours as well as assisting with events.

**Highlights**

- Immense pride in being an Aboriginal Midwifery student and Student Ambassador to promote awareness and diversity within the university
- Encouraging others, especially my fellow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to attend Flinders University if interested in studying
- Helped to progress leadership qualities
- Built confidence in working with people and being able to change my use of language when talking to various age groups.

## Education

**Qualification:**                                 **Bachelor of Midwifery**  
Institution   Flinders University of South Australia (2012 – 2014)

**Qualification**                                 **SACE**  
Institution   Hawker Area School (1999 – 2011)

## Scholarships

<b>2018</b>	SA Health CATSINaM conference attendance scholarship (Adelaide)
<b>2018</b>	Women’s and Children’s grant covering the attendance of Transforming Midwifery Practice through Education
<b>2013 – 2015</b>	Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship
<b>2013</b>	Haley Fehring Rural Scholarship
<b>2013</b>	Prof. Michael Kidd, AM, Scholarship
<b>2012 – 2015</b>	Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship
<b>2012 – 2015</b>	Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship
<b>2012</b>	Commonwealth Access Scholarship

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## **Relevant Professional Certificates/Workshops**

<b>Association</b>	<b>Women's and Children's Health Network</b>
Activity	Fetal Surveillance Education Program (FSEP) – Level 2 (2018) Reduce the risks of adverse perinatal outcome by improving professional levels of understanding and confidence in the area of fetal surveillance
<b>Association</b>	<b>Women's and Children's Health Network</b>
Activity	Practical Obstetric Multi Professional Training (PROMPT) (2018) Emergency Obstetrics course
<b>Association</b>	<b>Glenside Health Service, Adelaide</b>
Activity	Perinatal Mental Health Training (2018) Connecting mums, bubs, families and culture (2 days)
<b>Association</b>	<b>Women's and Children's Health Network (2018)</b>
Activity	Hypoglycaemia Prevention with Oral Dextrose
<b>Association</b>	<b>National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS), Diabetes Australia (2018)</b>
Activity	Feltmum training
<b>Association</b>	<b>Women's and Children's Health Network Digital Media e – Learning (2018)</b>
Activity	Disability Awareness Fire Safety Aboriginal Cultural Learning Baby Friendly Health Initiative

## **Referees**

### **Cultural**

Ms Jackie Ah Kit  
Director of Aboriginal Health Division  
Women's and Children's Health Network, South Australia  
Phone: 08 8303 1674      Mobile: 0400 707 285  
Email: [Jacqueline.AhKit@sa.gov.au](mailto:Jacqueline.AhKit@sa.gov.au)

Ms Shanamae Davies  
Aboriginal Maternal Infant Care Practitioner  
Aboriginal Family Birthing Program, Women's and Children's Hospital  
Phone: 08 8161 7948      Mobile: 0425 606 193  
Email: shanamae.davies@sa.gov.au

### **Clinical Practice**

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Mrs Toni-Maire Rowe  
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