



Position Paper – Nursing Now Campaign – 2020 Year of the Nurse and Year of the Midwife

Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM) is the peak body and we represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives. We strive to represent the voices of CATSINaM members and for the Nursing Now campaign and in honour of the year of the nurse and the year of the midwife we are profiling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives.

The 2020 Nursing Now campaign has been linked to the 200th anniversary of the birthday of Florence Nightingale and this has disappointed all the Indigenous Peoples around the world who were colonised by British settlers including Australia. We see this as a sign of lack of recognition of Indigenous People including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who have been healing, birthing babies and treating illness using traditional medicine for more than 80,000 years.

An example of this is the *‘Ngangkari are Anangu traditional healers. For thousands of years, Ngangkari have looked after the physical and emotional wellbeing of their people and communities.’* These healers have been recently recognised and allowed to be remunerated for their practice across the APY lands and into the South Australian health system.

CATSINaM continues to advocate for Birthing on Country model of care in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are cared for by Indigenous midwives and the care is delivered in a Culturally Safe way. This model of care is being implemented across Australia in which the women are empowered to incorporate traditional practices in their pregnancy and birth.

The 2020 Nursing Now campaign for CATSINaM will be a strength-based campaign aimed at raising the profile of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives and their connection to one of the longest continuing cultures in the world. This campaign will be conducted across Australia and will be linked to the strength and resilience Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives bring to their practice and to the Australian health system.