

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **IN OUR OWN RIGHT: BLACK AUSTRALIAN NURSES' AND MIDWIVES' STORIES, 2022 NATIONAL EXHIBITION**

The Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM) celebrates the opening of its *In Our Own Right: Black Australian Nurses and Midwives Stories Exhibition* on Thursday 18 August, at the Hyatt Regency Sydney, as part of its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Conference.

The exhibition will pay tribute to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nursing and midwifery trailblazers and role models, showcasing individual and collective stories of educational achievement and of facing and overcoming challenges, like racism, in order to effect change within health services for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"In our 25<sup>th</sup> year, CATSINaM is incredibly proud to support the development of a dedicated exhibition, recognising and sharing personal accounts and career journeys of pioneering nurses and midwives. Through storytelling, our professions can gain greater unity and strength to deliver quality healthcare to our peoples", said Professor Roianne West, CEO CATSINaM.

Emeritus Professor Mary Ann Bin-Sallik, Djaru matriarch, is one of the trailblazers whose story is included in the exhibition. Reflecting on her nursing training at the Darwin Hospital, she shared that, "it was stiff training, there was racism... But my mother was a very resourceful and determined woman, and she instilled in me that I could do whatever I wanted to do... I used racism as a motivating factor, and so I thought, 'they think I can't do it? Just watch me!'"

Support and encouragement from other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander hospital staff was essential to her transforming experiences of racism, into motivation and success. She shared the importance of care amongst mob, "that's when I realized what it's like to be Black; the love!"

"We have come a long way. Those of us who started early. We had to go through a lot. But, I have to say, the current nurses are still going through that racism", stated Emeritus Professor Bin-Sallik.

The exhibition is a series of works made by filmmakers Nicole Hutton, a Garawa woman, and Brittany Morris, a Wiradjuri, Dunghutti and Wonnarua woman, alongside exhibition curator Kerinne Jenkins and a team of collaborators.

“The stories they tell are stories that need to be heard across the country. Every time I sat down with the Aunties to film, we would end up crying. It’s so inspirational to hear what they went through early in their careers”, Ms Hutton shared.

The exhibition includes video installations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander actors who bring to life excerpts from the 2005 publications *In Our Own Right: Black Australian Nurses and Midwives Stories*, read by the authors or their next of kin.

The exhibition is open from Thursday 18 August to Sunday 21 August, at the Hyatt Regency Sydney. It will tour selected Australian cities and towns, and internationally.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that this exhibition will contain the names and images of deceased persons.

### **Additional information**

[CATSINaM National Conference](#)

2005 publication [In Our Own Right](#)

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