DERRICK MACKERRAS MEMORIAL LECTURE

Thursday 3 November 2022
3:30PM - 4:30PM
Main Auditorium, Brisbane City Hall

Best Start To Life – Utilising the RISE Framework to implement Birthing Services for First Nations Families

Speakers: Prof. Yvette Roe, Professor in Indigenous Health & Prof. Sue Kildea, Professor of Midwifery - Co-Directors of the Molly Wardaguga Research Centre (MWRC)

This year’s Derrick Mackerras Memorial Lecture will discuss the following:

- key maternal and infant health outcomes for First Nations and non-First Nations Australians
- dismantling the structural barriers to address health inequities
- the importance of ensuring Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services securing sustainable funding to provide an integrated system of care
- the importance of culturally and clinically safe birthing
- the importance of First Nations models of local governance driving translational research.

“To me, research is activism. We are changing the narrative by privileging the voices of our grandmothers, mothers, aunties and women. This approach changes how we do our work and outcome of how we do business, the questions we’re asking, the approach we take and outcomes for our communities.” Yvette Roe – Professor in Indigenous Health, Co-Director of MWRC

“We work in partnership, using participatory action research, to make things happen – transformative research.” Sue Kildea – Professor of Midwifery, Co-Director of MWRC

Prof. Yvette Roe, Professor in Indigenous Health, Co-Director of MWRC

Yvette Roe is a proud Njikena Jawuru woman from the West Kimberley. Prof. Roe is a Chief Investigator and Associate Investigator on a great number of grants that have been nationally competitive. To date, Yvette has been awarded (either as primary or associate investigator) numerous grants, scholarships, commissioned contracts estimated at $29.5M. The focus of her research is to transform health and support services for the ‘best start in life’ for Australia’s First Nations families. To achieve this vision, First Nations values, ways of knowing, being and doing underpin our reform agenda that is targeting health and support services for families across the first 1,000 days (pregnancy to age two). Her program of research seeks to enable widespread knowledge translation and implementation of Birthing on Country Services that provides a roadmap to improve the maternity and birthing outcomes for First Nations women, babies and families. Prof. Roe’s work is supported by more than 30 years experience working with First Nations peoples in urban, regional, remote and very remote communities.

Prof. Sue Kildea, Professor of Midwifery, Co-Director of MWRC

Sue Kildea is an internationally renowned midwifery and health services researcher with collaborative projects across Australia, Canada, Sweden and the UK. Specialising in midwifery and maternity services, remote and First Nations health she has projects redesigning maternity services; Birthing on Country services; new methods of monitoring progress in labour; sterile water injections for back pain in labour; waterbirth; and new methods for breastfeeding support. Most projects aim to improve health services and many are to strengthen services for vulnerable women and families (First Nations women, refugee women, teenagers, rural and remote women; women impacted by natural disasters/ stress in pregnancy). She is a strong collaborative researcher with expertise in participatory action research, epidemiology, randomised controlled trials, evaluation and community development. She has worked as a technical advisor in for the World Health Organisation, UNFPA and other organisations in Mongolia, Geneva, Jordan, Viet Nam, Canada, Japan and Indonesia. In 2018, Sue won Research Australia’s Health Services Researcher Award. Together with Molly Wardaguga, a Senior Aboriginal Health Worker from Mainingrigera, Sue was the joint recipient of the UTS Human Rights Award in 2004. This was awarded for contribution to advancing reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

REGISTER NOW

*This year’s lecture will be an in-person event and online registration is required as seating is limited. The lecture will be followed by a networking cocktail reception from 4.30pm-6.00pm.

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