

Bio: Professor Roianne West (BNurs, MMHNurs, PhD, PFHEA)

A descendent of the Kalkadunga and Djkunde Peoples from Queensland, a mother, and a grandmother. Prof. West's pioneering work commenced as an Aboriginal Health worker over 30 years ago but in many ways began generations before. Prof. West's work builds on a family legacy, cultural and intellectual inheritance and intergenerational knowledge that spans at least, four generations of Aboriginal nurses and a long line of healers.

Professor West is a highly regarded nurse academic, leader and researcher and was the first Aboriginal Professor of Nursing in Queensland and one of the first nationally. Professor West was the first Aboriginal registered nurse and academic to publish in Aboriginal nursing and nursing education, the platform from which she continues to lead and work in such roles as the Deputy Chairperson of the Australin Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC). Professor West has been recognised for her trailblazing leadership as a recipient of the Deakin University Alumni of the Year (2022) James Cook University Alumni of the Year (2021) and for her excellence in research leadership as a recipient of the Lowitja Institute Cranlana Award (2020). In 2020 Professor West was awarded a prestigious Principal Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (UK) in recognition of her personal and institutional commitment to the professionalism Indigenous health learning and teaching in Higher Education and in 2023 became Australia's first Aboriginal Nurse to undertake the UniSA Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre 'Visiting Research Fellowship.

Professor West honoured this family legacy through the:

- Completion of a Bachelor of Nursing, Deakin University NIKERI (National Indigenous Knowledges, Education, Research, and Innovation Institute) alongside her sister and her brother (2000).
- Completion of a Masters of Mental Health Nursing, University of Southern Queensland where she developed an Aboriginal Australian Nursing Theory (2007).
- Completion of a PhD, James Cook University where she developed a model of excellence to increase Aboriginal Nurses nationally (2012).

Leadership roles Professor West that followed include:

- Inaugural Nursing Director, Indigenous Health (Townsville Hospital and Health Service, 2010),
- Inaugural Joint Appointment Professor of Nursing, First Peoples' Health (Townsville Hospital and Health Service and School of Nursing and Midwifery, Griffith University, 2014)
- Inaugural Professor of Nursing, First Peoples' Health (School of Nursing and Midwifery, Griffith University, 2015)
- Inaugural Professor of First Peoples' Health (Health Group, Griffith University, 2016),
- Inaugural Director of the First Peoples' Health Unit (Health Group, Griffith University, 2017)
- Inaugural Dean, First People's Health (Health Group, Griffith University, 2019)

In 2020 Professor West was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM). The first CEO to be a full professor and hold a PhD. Under her stewardship Prof West:

- (i) Established the Muliyan Indigenist Health and Cultural Safety Education Research Consortium
- (ii) Led a key nursing education initiative in the: 'gettin em n keepin em n growin em': Strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nursing and midwifery education reform (GENKE II)
- (iii) Led the 'In Our Own Right: Black Australian Nurses and Midwives Stories II National Exhibition (show casing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nursing and Midwifery excellence, and
- (iv) Designed and developed the Murra Mullangari: Introduction to Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility E-learning program for practising Nurses (endorsed by the NMBA)
- (v) Received an apology Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (CDNM) to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, for the hurt and harm caused by non-Indigenous nurses and midwives.

Professor Roianne West uses Indigenist nursing and midwifery-led approaches harnesses the power and knowledge of the world's oldest living culture and the world's largest healthcare workforce to address inequities in Aboriginal Health outcomes through education. Professor West's research promotes rigour in standards in First Peoples Health Nursing and Midwifery education and is grounded in the premise that increasing the completion rates of Aboriginal Nursing and Midwifery students in Higher Education will make a significant and sustainable contribution to addressing inequities in Aboriginal Health.

Professor West sees being the first Aboriginal Professor of Nursing at the University of Sydney Susan Wakil School of Nursing and Midwifery mutually beneficial and as the continuance of this work in nursing and midwifery and an opportunity to progress the work she delivered at the University of Sydney Susan Wakil School of Nursing and Midwifery Distinguished Nursing Lecture Series "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Worlds Indigenous Peoples: Sovereignty in Nursing and Midwifery in Australia". Importantly this involves the application of her newest directions in advancing *Indigenist* nursing and midwifery research and practice advocating for the recognition, protection, and maintenance of all aspects of Aboriginal Cultures in the disciplines of Nursing and Midwifery.

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