

Media Release

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A TESTAMENT OF THE TIMES: INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN NURSES DIVULGE THEIR STORIES

Why are health outcomes for Indigenous Australians so poor? In a candid expression of untold injustices and triumphs, independent publisher eContent Management launches a landmark book this month. *In Our Own Right: Black Australian Nurses' Stories* is an intimate collection of individual accounts written by Indigenous nurses - who currently account for only 0.05 per cent of Australian registered nurses.

The first novel of its kind, *In Our Own Right: Black Australian Nurses' Stories* is a powerful testament to the careers and lives of 23 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and men as they fought public battles of family separation, racial discrimination and prejudice to successfully pursue a career in nursing.

Sally Goold, Order of Australia medal recipient for service to Nursing Education and Aboriginal Health (1986) and co-editor of the book, believes it is an important part of the nursing profession's history, unearthing untold stories of strength and endurance.

"This book is a celebration of Indigenous Australian nurses and the difficulties they have overcome. It is not about directing blame or guilt, but rather a commemoration of their achievements and an inspiration for all Indigenous peoples," says Sally Goold.

Stories document a range of personal journeys; from dealing with discriminatory patients and educators, and the difficulties of accessing educational materials, to achieving recognised qualifications and passionate efforts to contribute to nursing and the well being of indigenous communities.

Ardently honest and radiating quiet humility, the raw candor with which these women and men write will surely soften even the toughest critic and inspire respect for the cultural challenges experienced by nurses of racial minorities.

'If this book results in improved recruitment and retention of Indigenous nurses in education and community health care then we shall feel that it has achieved its aim – that of contributing to cultural understanding and improved Indigenous health outcomes', says publisher James Davidson.

In Our Own Right: Black Australian Nurses' Stories is available for purchase now from www.e-contentmanagement.com or by calling 07 5435 2900. RRP is \$33.00 incl GST - discounts apply for students. Author profiles are available on <http://inourownright.e-contentmanagement.com/>

Preview chapters and copies of *In Our Own Right: Black Australian Nurses' Stories* are available upon request. Contributors to the book are also available for media interviews.

About the Editors

Dr. Sally S Goold, OAM is a Wiradjuri woman with an extensive background in Aboriginal Health and Nurse Education. Sally was the first Aboriginal Registered Nurse at the Aboriginal Medical Service, Redfern and was later instrumental in the formation of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses (CATSIN, 1997). Now the Executive Director, Sally has taught in hospital-based programs, and been involved with various Universities around Australia. She was awarded the Royal College of Nursing (Queensland Chapter) Distinguished Nursing Award (2000) and a Doctor of Nursing, Honoris Causa from RMIT University (2002). Sally is past Commissioner of the Queensland Crime and Misconduct Commission, was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for service to Nursing Education and Aboriginal Health (1986), member of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (1998–2000) and appointed as member of the National Indigenous Council (2004).

Kerryne Liddle is a professional journalist and partner in Precise Media Management – an Adelaide based business that provides advice on media management and strategic communication. A mother with two children, aged four and eight, Kerryne is now based in Adelaide, but was born, raised and has strong family, spiritual and cultural connections with the Eastern Arrernte people of Central Australia. Kerryne was awarded a Centenary Medal for services to the Australian community as a freelance journalist, is Chairperson of the National Aboriginal Cultural Institute (Tandanya) and works on a number of government boards and committees lobbying to improve access to services, and opportunities for Indigenous peoples. She is also studying business management at tertiary level.

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