



Working With Women Who

Working with women who have a disability

Namira Williams, CEO at *disAbility Care*



Dr Namira Williams is the founder and CEO of *disAbility Maternity Care*, an organisation which focuses on promoting inclusion for parents with a disability. Namira completed her PhD in 2020 with her thesis "Travelling with two: balancing identity and risk in mothers with intellectual disability". Her findings have strongly influenced the goals and direction of *disAbility Maternity Care*. Namira has lectured with the University of Newcastle since 2015 and brings to her work over 30 years' experience as a midwife, working predominantly with vulnerable groups of women, including Indigenous and adolescent women. Her contribution to improving outcomes for families was recognised when she was awarded 'ACM Midwife of the Year 2013 (NSW)'

Cherise Smith, Coordinator of the Women's Individual Needs clinic at the Royal Women's Hospital Melbourne

With over 36 years of direct clinical Nursing and Midwifery service and 18 years specialising in delivering maternity care to women with disabilities, as Coordinator/Midwife, the clinic has given a unique opportunity to gain skill development and insight into the needs of women with disabilities (cognitive, physical and sensory) accessing maternity care, the potential effects on a pregnancy, birth outcomes and challenges faced as parents and newborns and their achievements.