



Working With Women Who

Working with women who are Indigenous

Melanie Briggs



Melanie Briggs is a mother of two gudjaga's (children) and is a descendant of the Dharawal and Gumbayngirr peoples. She is the Director of the first Aboriginal-led maternity model of care in Australia, also known as Binjilaanii Maternity Services Pty Ltd, and works as a midwife at Waminda South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation in Nowra NSW. Melanie completed her Bachelor of Midwifery in 2009 at the

University of Technology Sydney and has been providing maternity care within a community based setting with First Nation families for the past 10 years. She has also completed a Master of Primary Maternity Care through Griffith University and is AHPRA endorsed. Melanie has Co-Chaired the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Birthing on Country Committee, holds memberships with the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM), the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stillbirth Committee, NSW Maternity Services Alliance, Associate Investigator for the National Birthing on Country Centre for Research Excellence with Charles Darwin University and Associate Investigator for Peer Support for Breastfeeding Mothers with University of Wollongong.

Cleone Wellington



My name is Cleone Wellington and I am proud South Coast Wandj Wandandian/Cullunghutti/Jerrinja woman with connection to Jatimatang/Ngarigo. My role at Waminda is the Cultural Manager, I have been employed with Waminda going on 12 years where I have been able to develop my skills and qualifications in



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Leadership and Management growth starting at reception into my current role.

I can't see myself working in another organisation due to the values and the purpose of Waminda, we are a proud and strong Aboriginal Women's ACCHO that is up for all challenges that face our women and their families and walking with them side by side in their journey wherever it leads them. I love working in my role, I think it's unique to actually have a role such as mine where we embed our ways of being, knowing and doing, placing our Aboriginal Culture at the forefront and everything is built upon that foundation that our Elders had fought for in the days of struggle and hardship to develop ACCHO's and feeling very proud and honoured to walk in their footsteps.