

Birth Matters: Innovations and Insights in Midwifery

Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow:
Advancing Maternal Health

Cruising to PNG
departing Brisbane

23 NOV - 04 DEC 2025



NURSES FOR
NURSES
NETWORK



EDUCATION *at* SEA

CONFERENCE SYNOPSIS

The aim of the conference is to explore the concept of innovation in Midwifery. This conference bridges the historical, holistic practices of midwifery with modern advancements in maternal and neonatal health.

We will explore midwifery practice with our Papua New Guinea colleagues – visiting their hospitals and learning from their traditional, cultural, and current midwifery practices. Whilst in the conference room we will explore innovations in midwifery practice in the Australian context.

This approach not only honours the rich legacy of midwifery but also underscores the profession's dynamic and evolving nature in the face of contemporary challenges and scientific progress.

The conference will serve as a platform for midwives from diverse backgrounds to share their experiences, learn from one another, and strengthen the global midwifery community. The hospital visits, presentations, session discussions, and networking opportunities are designed to foster collaboration, mentorship, and professional development.

CONFERENCE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At this conference, you will:

- Explore the Integration of Traditional and Modern Practices
- Gain advanced knowledge and skills in providing comprehensive maternal and neonatal care
- Develop stronger advocacy skills to support women's health rights, informed choice, and access to quality care
- Enhance professional development and contribute to the growth of a supportive, global midwifery community

YOU WILL ALSO LEARN

- The history of Australia's influence in Papua New Guinea
- Daily Life and Social Customs of Papua New Guinea
- The Health Care System in PNG
- About our past visits to Alotau and Rabaul Hospitals

Want to donate products to our PNG colleagues?

Over the years we have been visiting the hospitals, we have found that well-meaning people donate large amounts of products that cannot be used at the health facilities.

This can be due to any of the following:

- The product is unknown to local staff and therefore they require education to use it and there is no ongoing supply. So when it runs out what do they do then?
- The products supplied are out of date.
- The products are not suitable to use in a tropical location.
- The items are well worn and not suitable for reuse.
- The products are culturally inappropriate.
- Too many items in large suitcases that are difficult to get off the boat and through customs.

"Closer to the sail date we will be in touch with you to identify what products the staff at both hospitals and the Kiriwina Health centre have requested we bring for them. If you would like to donate, we will provide you the information you require to do so easily and without causing any issues with the local authorities."

THE PROGRAM

DAY ONE: SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2025 | DEPART BRISBANE

1600: We set sail

Make sure you are on deck for the set-sail festivities

Time TBA: Conference Registration and Drinks

Enjoy this opportunity to mingle with the other attendees at the complimentary drinks and Conference Registration function.

All delegates are required to attend the conference registration session to collect their conference pack & confirm registration details to ensure the correct issuing of their CPD certificate.

DAY TWO: MONDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2025 | CONFERENCE DAY

0800 – 0900: Welcome to the conference – Orientation to Papua New Guinea

The History of Australia's Influence in Papua New Guinea

"In 1906 the young nation of Australia became a colonial administrator when it assumed responsibility for the external territory of Papua – the southern half of what is now Papua New Guinea" In this session we will explore the Australian influence in PNG from the initial administration role through to independence in September 1975 and the current relationship that Australia has with one of its closest Neighbours.

0900 – 1000: Daily Life and Social Customs of Papua New Guinea

"PNG consists of hundreds of indigenous ethnic groups, scattered among the over 600 islands. Each have their own cultural and language differences. These differences are embedded within the PNG constitution, which expresses a desire for traditional ways of life within various communities to remain the bedrock of PNG society."

In this session we will explore social customs and gain an understanding of the people.

1000 – 1030: Break

1030 – 1130: The Health Care System

"The country's health system is fragile with poor health and immunization outcomes. With an under-five mortality rate of 57 per 1000 live births, an estimated 15,400 children or one in 13 children, die each year in PNG, mostly from preventable diseases."

1130 – 1230: A reflection on our past visits to Alotau and Rabaul Hospitals

What to expect and how to be culturally sensitive when meeting and talking with our PNG Nursing and Midwifery Colleagues.

1230: Lunch

PM Session: Self-directed CPD Activities | Access via the online library

There will be a number of activities in the online library that you can complete before the sail date or during the conference schedule if you prefer. There will be several specific documents provided to support the information discussed with you in this morning's session.

DAY THREE: TUESDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2025 | CONFERENCE DAY

0800 – 1000: Embracing Traditions, Envisioning the Future: A Comprehensive Immersion into Midwifery

This program is designed to immerse participants in the world of midwifery, focusing on its rich traditions, current practices, and future directions. It aims to enrich participants' knowledge, skills, and professional networks, celebrating midwifery's integral role in maternal and newborn health. This session sets the stage for a conference dedicated to the depth and breadth of midwifery.

1000 – 1030: Break

1030 – 1230: Cultural Sensitivity in Midwifery Care

In this next section of the program, we will explore Cultural Sensitivity in Midwifery Care. There will be discussion on strategies for providing respectful and inclusive care, acknowledging the rich tapestry of cultural beliefs and practices around birth.

PM Session: Self-directed CPD Activities | Access via the online library

There will be a number of activities in the online library that you can complete before the sail date or during the conference schedule if you prefer. There will be several specific documents provided to support the information discussed with you in this afternoon's session.

DAY FOUR: WEDNESDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2025 | ALOTAU | 0800 - 1800

0800 – 1600: A Visit to Alotau Hospital

Today you will be spending the day visiting colleagues at Alotau Hospital in Papua New Guinea (PNG). You will gain exposure to different cultural perspectives on childbirth and postnatal care. Understanding how different culture's view and manage childbirth can enrich your professional practice and provide a more holistic approach to midwifery.

PNG has unique public health challenges, and this visit will provide insights into managing maternal and child health in challenging environments. This experience will be invaluable for understanding broader public health issues and contributing to global health solutions. This kind of international engagement not only enriches the individual's professional and personal life but also contributes to the broader goal of improving global health standards and outcomes, especially in maternal and neonatal health.

DAY FIVE: THURSDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2025 | CONFLICT ISLANDS | 0800 - 1700

Conflict Islands | Explore at your Leisure

Don't be fooled by the name, this is paradise in the Coral Sea! The Conflict Islands are made up of 21 untouched islands in Papua New Guinea. With spectacular reefs, palm trees and deep blue seas, the Conflict Islands are home an incredible array of marine wildlife.

DAY SIX: FRIDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2025 | EXPLORE SHIP LIFE

Free Day: Take the day to explore what this fabulous ship has to offer.

Time TBA: This afternoon, join us for a fund raiser for the Global Nurses and Midwives Rotary Club.

Time TBA: Tonight, we will meet and Network to reflect on our visits to the Alotau hospital and explore clinical practice lessons learnt.

DAY SEVEN: SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2025 | RABAU | 0800 - 1600

Rabaul | Explore at your Leisure

Located on Papua New Guinea's northeastern tip, this province - blessed with natural beauty but plagued with an unlucky past - has literally risen from the ashes.

Optional Tour: Visit to Rabaul Hospital and surrounding sites – includes lunch

DAY EIGHT: SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2025 | KIRIWINA ISLAND | 0900 - 1700

Kiriwina Island | Explore at your Leisure

Located in Papua New Guinea's Milne Bay Province, Kiriwina is the largest and by far the most populous of the Trobriand Islands, and home to one of the most colourful and fascinating cultures on earth.

Tour: Visit to Kiriwina Health Centre

DAY NINE: MONDAY 1st DECEMBER 2025 | CONFLICT ISLANDS | 0800 - 1700

Revisit the Conflict Islands – it is gorgeous!

DAY TEN: TUESDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2025 | CONFERENCE DAY

AM Session: Self-directed CPD Activities | Access via the online library

There will be a number of activities in the online library that you can complete before the sail date or during the conference schedule if you prefer. There will be several specific documents provided to support the information discussed with you in this morning's session.

1300 – 1500: Reflection on Alotau Hospital: Shared Stories of Discovery

This session will unpick the lessons learnt from our PNG colleagues and contrast practices to Australian guidelines. This session provides attendees the ability to explore more broadly the midwifery practice witnessed at the hospital and the outcomes for the woman, the child, and the family.

1500 – 1530: Break

1530 – 1730: The Science Behind the Practice: Advancing Midwifery through Evidence-Based Care

This session will then review the Science Behind the Practice: Delve into the latest research underpinning midwifery care, focusing on evidence-based practices that enhance maternal and neonatal outcomes.

DAY ELEVEN: WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2025 | CONFERENCE DAY

Free Day: Take this day to explore what this fabulous vessel has to offer.

1800 – 1900: Conference Farewell Event | Venue: TBA

Share a drink and farewell friends and colleagues.

DAY TWELVE: THURSDAY 4th DECEMBER 2025 | BRISBANE | 0800

Disembark – Safe travels!

OUR PRESENTER

Cate Nagle

Cate holds an Honorary Professor role (Deakin) and an Adjunct Professor role at James Cook University.

A Midwife for nearly 30 years, Cate has practised nationally and internationally in acute and primary care settings. Cate led the NMBA Midwife standards for practice and her research has informed midwifery practice, education, and policy. Cate has 8 PhD students and serves on a number of state and federal committees.

With a Master of Public Health and a PhD in perinatal epidemiology, Cate is looking forward to meeting you all and to what will be a culturally and professionally enriching experience.

OUR FACILITATORS

Sue Walker, RN, BN, BN (ADMIN), MPH, MACN, Specialist Nurse Educator

Sue is the director and co-founder of the Nurses for Nurses Network. Sue is a key contributor to the online education platform Nursing CPD – a Continuing Professional Development platform to assist Nurses in meeting their annual CPD requirements.

As a Registered Nurse, Sue holds Degrees in both Nursing and Health Administration, a Master's Degree in Public Health, as well as a number of certificate courses in Psychiatry of Ageing, Gerontology, Chemotherapy Administration, and Training and Assessment. She is also an Accredited Mental Health First Aid Trainer, Mindfulness Practitioner, and Clinical Supervisor.

Sue has extensive experience as a clinician, educator, and senior manager. She has presented at local and international conferences on many topics including, key issues in healthcare, such as the psychological impact of the work that Nurses do and how the work requirements to deliver healthcare impact the health of the clinician. Other topics presented comprise of Nursing Leadership, Emergency Management, Mental health, Aged Care, Advanced Life Support, Assertiveness, Grief and Loss, and Workplace Bullying.

Sue is passionate about making a difference in how the community and Nurses experience the healthcare system.

"Nurses are the backbone of the healthcare system and work in difficult environments that can take advantage of their commitment to ensuring the best possible care is delivered. To continue to meet professional and community expectations Nurses and Midwives need to acknowledge their unique contribution to health care delivery and assert their collective strength to safeguard the community and ensure their ongoing professional needs are recognised and met.

Healthcare should be delivered by competent, knowledgeable individuals to ensure the best possible experience for the recipient of that care. Nursing is a fabulous profession. The knowledge and skill of the individual Nurse will have the greatest influence on the happiness and health outcomes of each and every client".

Jason Dawson, RN., BACH NURSING

Jason Dawson is a Registered Nurse from the Gold Coast Queensland. Whilst studying his bachelor of Nursing at Southern Cross University he developed an interest in mental health and has been working in this field of nursing since completing his studies in 2008.

In this time, Jason has undertaken varied roles including Acute Inpatient Nursing, Community Nursing, clinical facilitating and Nurse Unit Manager positions. In 2012, Jason combined his passion for nursing with his love of travel and founded CPD Cruise Pty Ltd with the view to providing Nurses the opportunity to update and improve their skills in diverse and unique locations.

CONFERENCE INCLUSIONS

- An extensive Conference program based on current best practice
- Education content that meets the same exacting standards as anything offered in an Australian land-based program
- Conference presenters who are knowledgeable in their field and are excited to be able to share their skill, knowledge, and passion with Conference Attendees
- An online Conference library filled to the brim with educational content that allows you to create your own learning experience by completing pre-conference education activities
- A Registration Reception including complimentary drinks where you can meet other Conference Attendees and network with Conference Convenors and Conference Presenter/s
- A Conference pack that includes a notepad, pen, lanyard (this is important on a cruise ship to attach your room key, which becomes your lifeline on a ship) and additional information to support a fantastic Conference experience
- The opportunity to meet as a group in various Conference open forums, in one of the many fabulous locations on the ship
- A complimentary Farewell Drinks Function held on the last night of the Conference to celebrate new friendships and information gained
- A Conference Transcript that identifies each session including the session synopsis and session presenter
- A Certificate of Completion identifying the CPD hours attached to the Conference Program for you to include in your CPD Evidence Portfolio

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION - \$1290.00 *(Please Note: Conference registration does not include accommodation or travel costs)*
Conference registration and deposits are being handled by Education at Sea.

This is a fabulous program! To secure your place at this Conference you need to contact Education at Sea to find out about all the cabin options available. Once you have paid your deposit, your registration is confirmed, and you can start planning your Conference getaway.

VENUE

Carnival Luminosa | <https://www.carnival.com.au/cruise-ships/carnival-luminosa>

EDUCATION AT SEA CONTACT DETAILS

02 7908 7774 | enquiries@educationatsea.com.au | www.educationatsea.com.au

The Nurses for Nurses Network strongly recommends customers take out travel insurance at the time of registration for an event, to cover any unforeseen circumstances that may prevent them attending and thus incur any financial loss.

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