

National Conference 2026

Topics for Presentations and Panels

INTRODUCTION

For the National Conference 2026, CATSINaM is introducing a refined approach to presentation topics and abstract submissions.

Rather than offering a broad theme, each presentation stream includes a specific topic, description, and guiding question. This structure is designed to focus presentations on practical insights, outcomes, and lessons that strengthen nursing and midwifery practice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Applicants are invited to respond directly to the guiding question for their chosen topic.

Submissions should demonstrate how practice, research, education, or policy initiatives contribute to culturally safe care, professional growth, and community wellbeing, while addressing the theme of the 2026 Conference:

The Power We Carry, Protecting and Growing Our Young Ones | Anwerne ritterke atnyenetyeke Anwerne ampe mape arntarntareyeke.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

Abstract guidelines

When preparing your abstract:

- Select a topic that best aligns with your experience, research, or practice.
- Respond directly to the guiding question. Your abstract should clearly link your presentation to the key question under your chosen topic.

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- Use evidence, practice insights, or storytelling to illustrate your key messages. Presentations may include examples from community practice, service delivery, education, or policy.
- Highlight outcomes and learnings. Where possible, describe the difference your work has made – for individuals, communities, or healthcare systems.
- Abstracts should be concise and contain no more than 300 words, and include your name, organisation, and contact details.
- Abstracts must be received by the advertised closing date. Submissions received after this date will not be considered.
- Abstracts must be submitted electronically via the [CATSINaM Submission Portal](#).
- First authors must be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Presenting authors are required to register and pay for their own travel, accommodation, and expenses to attend the conference. CATSINaM does not pay presenter fees to successful applicants.
- Submissions will be subject to peer-review by the Conference Advisory Committee.
- It is the responsibility of the presenter to ensure that their abstract is submitted correctly.

Presentation format

- Abstracts may be accepted for oral presentations or poster displays. Applicants will be advised of their allocated format after review.
- Each presenter will have 7-10 minutes to deliver their presentation.
- Presentations should be concise, focused, and highlight key insights responding directly to the key question.

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- Presentations should conclude with one clear, discussion-generating question that you would like attendees to explore further.
 - To support meaningful discussions, presenters are encouraged to consider preparing questions that encourage reflection, debate or collective problem-solving and directly links to the presentations' key message
- Presentations will be followed by 15-20 minute facilitated small discussion groups with attendees. Attendees can choose to participate in a group that best aligns with:
 - The question they are most interested in
 - The topic area most relevant to their practice or research
 - The idea they want to explore further with peers

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1. *Building Strong Mental Health and Wellbeing*

Description

Strengthening the mental health, resilience, and social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, and their carers through culturally safe, trauma-informed, and holistic approaches.

Key Question for Presenters:

What elements make programs effective in strengthening mental health, resilience, and social and emotional wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, and carers – and how can their impact be measured and sustained?

Reflective Prompt:

Consider including examples of culturally grounded frameworks, partnerships, or evaluation outcomes.

2. *It Takes a Team: Insights from Nurses and Midwives in Multi-Disciplinary Care Teams*

Description

Exploring lessons from nurses working in multi-disciplinary care teams providing care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, including those with disabilities and in out-of-home care.

Key Question for Presenters

What have nurses and midwives learned about providing culturally safe, coordinated care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in multi-disciplinary teams – and how have these partnerships improved outcomes?

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Reflective Prompt

Consider sharing examples of collaboration, challenges, and culturally safe practice within team settings.

3. *Breaking the Cycle: Supporting Families Experiencing Domestic and Family Violence*

Description

Exploring the role of nurses and midwives in recognising, responding to, and preventing domestic and family violence affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children, and families — through culturally safe, trauma-informed, and community-led approaches.

Key Question for Presenters

How can nurses and midwives provide culturally safe, trauma-informed support for individuals and families experiencing domestic and family violence, and what approaches are helping to prevent and heal the impacts of violence?

Reflective Prompt

Consider sharing examples of early intervention, community partnerships, or culturally grounded models of care that address safety, healing, and empowerment.

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4. *Finding Your Way: Growing Identity and Practice Together for Early Career Nurses and Midwives*

Description

Sharing stories and insights about navigating your journey as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early career nurse or midwife – finding a mentor and connecting with cultural identity in professional practice.

Key Question for Presenters

How can early career Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives strengthen their cultural identity, build mentoring relationships, and find belonging in professional practice?

Reflective Prompt

You may wish to reflect on personal experiences, lessons learned, or strategies that support early career development and cultural connection.

5. *Listening to What Works: What Makes Maternity Programs Work for First Nations Mothers*

Description

Exploring innovative, culturally safe models of maternity care and service delivery that improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers, babies, and families.

Key Question for Presenters

What design features, partnerships, or approaches have made maternity care programs successful for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers, babies, and families – and what can others learn from them?

Reflective Prompt

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Include examples from practice, research, or community-led initiatives that demonstrate successful outcomes.

6. *Walking Together: Strengthening Cultural Safety in the Workforce*

Description

Exploring how nurses and midwives can contribute to the growth of a culturally safe, confident, and responsive healthcare workforce.

Key Question for Presenters

How can Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives and their allies collaborate to grow a culturally safe, confident, and responsive healthcare workforce?

Reflective Prompt

Consider highlighting strategies for cultural safety education, allyship, or leadership development in the healthcare sector.