

## **Press Release**

### **KPMG celebrate 10 Years of Malabar Community Midwifery Link Service with gift to local mothers**

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Malabar Community Midwifery Link Service.

Top-tier accounting firm KPMG and The Royal Hospital for Women Foundation have joined forces to celebrate the Aboriginal families who have used the service and the midwives and staff who have provided an exceptional service to the local community.

In 2006, The Royal Hospital for Women saw the need for innovative care to address the health inequities for Indigenous women and poor birth outcomes for their babies.

Malabar Midwives was founded with the ideal that cultural appropriate care was the key to helping to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Sydney's Eastern suburbs.

The service has been named as a Gold Standard for other services wanting to replicate the model, nationally. In 2008 Malabar Midwives received two NSW Aboriginal Health Awards: the Director General's Award and the award for excellence in program and service delivery.

To honor the amazing work done by Malabar Midwives, KPMG has funded a community lunch on November 28<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the La Perouse Community Health Care centre, situated in the heart of the community that uses the service.

Over 200 women and children have been invited for a lunch catered by Indigenous suppliers as well as dance performance by local children, all the families attending have used the Malabar Midwives service.

The Royal Hospital for Women Foundation CEO Catherine Oates Smith said:

*"Ten years is a milestone for any health service. This event would not be possible without the support of KPMG and our donors. We are so grateful to have the opportunity to celebrate the innovative and important work done by Malabar Midwives."*

KPMG has also gifted a one year's supply of baby blankets to all women who have babies with Malabar Midwives during the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

Designed by local artist and Aboriginal Midwife Leona McGrath, the special gifts contribute to the feeling of belonging that is at the core of the service.

A spokesperson from KPMG said:

*"KPMG are proud to support The Royal Hospital for Women through their Malabar Midwives program. This program acknowledges the values and traditions of indigenous*

*culture, while improving the health outcomes for women and babies in the local community."*

**Available for comment:**

- **Catherine Oates Smith**, (Royal Hospital for Women Foundation CEO), can speak about the philanthropy in the community that helps to sustain the program.
- **Shea Caplice** (Midwife Consultant at Malabar Midwives) – experienced midwife who has been with the service since the 2006.
- **Trudy Allende** (Aboriginal Health education officer) – raised in the area Trudy is a mother-of-four who has been working with Malabar Midwives for nine years.
- **Community Elders** – can speak on the first hand impact this service has had on the community
- Mothers who have used the service available upon request

**- ENDS –**

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