

# Media Release

## KOORI HEALTH: DOING IT THEIR WAY

His Excellency the Honourable Sir William Deane, AC, KBE Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia will officially launch the book, *Lookin' After Our Own - Supporting Aboriginal Families Through The Hospital Experience*.

The book, co-written by Neville Austin, Angela Clarke and Shawana Andrews, from the Aboriginal Family Support Unit of the Royal Children's Hospital, celebrates the partnerships that exist between the Koori Community, the Royal Children's Hospital and VicHealth.

*Lookin' After Our Own - Supporting Aboriginal Families Through The Hospital Experience* reflects the courageous and inspirational journeys so graciously shared by Koori families who brought their children to a hospital that was once a site of child removal. These families have shared their innermost reflections, experiences, fears, happiness and apprehensions when having a child in Hospital.

The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, like many other Australian Hospitals has had an Aboriginal Liaison Officer Program since 1982. In 1994, the program developed a new and enhanced vision for care. Today, this specialist hospital offers a more inclusive model of care to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families from Victoria and across Australia have access to its much needed services. That vision has now been realised and documented in this very special book.

"It is encouraging to see the positive health outcomes for Aboriginal children and their families taking place within our community as a result of this innovative collaboration" says Dr. Rob Moodie, CEO VicHealth.

"VicHealth remains committed to working with Aboriginal communities to improve health outcomes for children and their families. The positive health spin-offs as a result of this project and inspiring publication will be felt today and for years to come."

*Lookin' After Our Own - Supporting Aboriginal Families Through The Hospital Experience* demonstrates that when a partnership is forged between the Koori Community and a mainstream institution, positive changes can happen and visions can be realised.

### For more information, please contact:

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