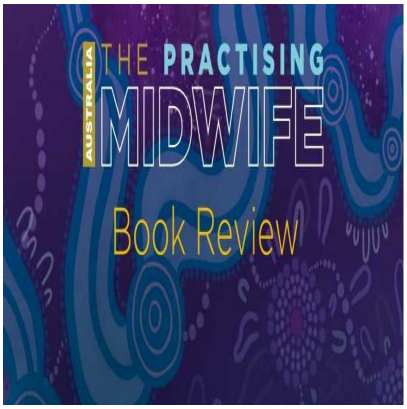

Description

Book Review: Stories in Midwifery: Reflection, Inquiry, Action by Allison Cummins, Katharine Gillett, Karen McLaughlin, Loretta Musgrave, Jessica Wood

Review by: Sheena McChlery – Senior Lecturer in Midwifery, University of Notre Dame Australia

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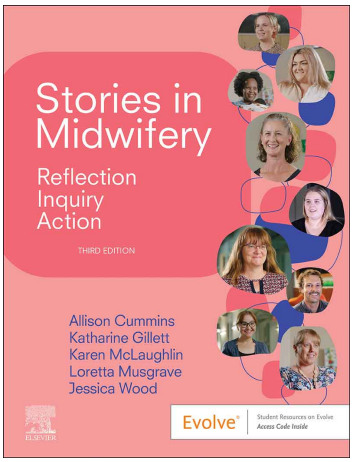

As a midwifery educator, I'm always excited to find a book that is inspiring, educational and evidence-based. This book fits those criteria perfectly and is, in my opinion, outstanding.

The layout of the chapters is innovative; each contains a story from a midwife, a woman experiencing maternity care, a partner, midwifery student, obstetrician or other health professional. Each story is unique and describes a particular experience, such as birthing at home or parenting with a same-sex partner. Other stories include the birthing experience from the perspective of a male partner, an obstetrician who specialises in breech births and the experiences of a midwife living and working in remote Australia. The chapters begin with information about the topic, such as the evidence for the

benefits of water immersion in labour and birth. The individual stories follow, then the reader is invited to reflect, with prompt questions to encourage deep reflection. Next, the reader is prompted to ‘inquire’, by reading book chapters or scholarly articles. Finally, activities are set, to cement the learning.

The book contains all the transcripts from the stories, as well as references to the prescribed scholarly literature. The book is also available as an e-book, with videos of the interviews with participants and learning activities available online, making this a valuable mobile tool.

There are many reasons this book is outstanding. First, easy accessibility of materials ensures use of the resource in any setting. Second, stories from participants are clear, unabridged and heart-felt; the authenticity shines through. Third, there’s a mix of unusual circumstances, such as caring for a person with a disability, together with stories that may be familiar for some midwives and midwifery students, such as the care of a younger person. This teaches us that every experience is special and meaningful for each person utilising maternity care and it is important for us to pause, reflect and view the experience through that individual’s eyes.

This is a valuable resource for any midwifery student, midwife or other health professional in maternity care. **TPM**

Category

1. Australia - TPMA
2. Book reviews

Tags

1. 2023
2. book review
3. midwifery

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