You are invited to a presentation for the Cultural Enquiry Research Group (CERG), School of Education and Arts.

Barriers and facilitators to access to skilled birth attendants (SBA) in Afar region, Ethiopia

Presenter: Rosey King
Faculty of Health
Federation University Australia

Date: Monday 1st June 2015 at 6.00pm with the seminar commencing at 6:15pm until 6:45pm, followed by questions.
Venue: Room F200, F Building, Mt Helen Campus

DRINKS AND NIBBLES WILL BE PROVIDED

RSVP: Thursday 28th May 2015
Demelza Hall, Federation University Australia. Email d.hall@federation.edu.au
Seminar Synopsis:

This paper reports on research conducted among the Afar, in Ethiopia. Afar are nomadic pastoralists and a marginalised ethnic group living predominately in Ethiopia but also crossing into Dibouti and Eritrea. The majority of women birth at home with the help of a Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA). The Ethiopian government are working on improving referral pathways for women to access skilled birth attendants at a clinical facility. The Afar preference is for a discrete birth in private at home with the support of a trusted TBA. The Ethiopian government has a great challenge in providing well trained and resourced skilled birth attendants (midwives, nurses, health officers) who will provide culturally appropriate and safe care. Disrespectful and abusive care in childbirth is also a powerful determinant to accessing SBA.

Rosey King has worked as a midwife and nurse, project worker, consultant and academic for 40 years, her background also includes a Bachelor in Social Sciences, and a Master of Arts (Anthropology). She has coordinated the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery here at FedUni for around 12 years. Rosey is particularly interested in women’s access to safe birth services particularly in developing countries. She is involved with a Ballarat community group in supporting maternal and child health services and TB education in Timor Leste (she will be taking 10 nursing and midwifery students on a short term mobility excursion to Timor Leste in July).

In 2009-11 Rosey took leave without pay and worked as academic advisor and clinical support midwife at Hamilin College of Midwives, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In 2012 she was named as a Co Investigator on a AUSAid Research grant to investigate ‘Improving the utilisation of maternal, neonatal and child health services in rural and pastoralist Ethiopia: A peer ethnography study’ this involved research in Ethiopia in 2014.