

# Remnants of Empire, Beginnings of Life

## Working with pregnant Indigenous women as a non-Indigenous social worker



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### WHEN

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018

6pm to 7.30pm

### WHERE

University of NSW

Central Lecture Block- CLB 4 (near Morven Brown)

[UNSW Central Lecture Block 4](#)

### COST

FREE

**Spaces are limited, so please register by COB - Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018.**

**Emma Searle - BSW (UNSW)  
Senior Social Worker**

**Malabar Midwifery Group Practice (Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Service)  
Royal Hospital for Women**

Emma Searle has over 16-years of experience working as a Social Worker in a range of health and child protection settings in rural and urban Australia and overseas. Emma has been part of the Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Service at the Royal Hospital for Women for over 10 years and will speak about her experience of engaging with vulnerable Indigenous families as a non-Indigenous practitioner. In 2013 Emma was awarded a Churchill Fellowship and travelled to New Zealand, USA, and Canada to investigate how other non-Indigenous and Indigenous staff engaged vulnerable pregnant Indigenous women in urban health and welfare settings in culturally competent ways.

This evening session will explore the difficult reality Aboriginal families experience as they are significantly overrepresented within child protection. Furthermore, discussion around the challenges of overrepresentation of non-Aboriginal health and welfare practitioners who are often the professionals making decisions about the care and support needs of Aboriginal families.

### Themes explored during the discussion will include:

- Challenges of engaging Indigenous families as a non-Indigenous social worker
- Acknowledging history and practicing reconciliation in everyday social work practice
- Holding risk and uncertainty
- Addressing vicarious trauma and vicarious resilience

This event is organised by the University of New South Wales in collaboration with the Australian Association of Social Workers (NSW Branch).