

# Celebrating International Women's Day

### International Women's Day is...

An opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the contributions that women have made to the development of the society in which we live and work.

## **Embodying Mater mission and values**

My personal beliefs and values align with the Mater mission and values so embodying these is second nature really. My behaviour is an example that has the potential to be followed by the people that I work with so I strive to inspire others by leading by example.

# Female influences who have helped shape my life

I've worked in maternity services for a long time and have been privileged to meet many women. Some have suffered adversity, loss and faced many challenges and I am always in awe of how these women in the midst of their own struggles, find the strength to smile, be positive and be present for others.

My healthcare colleagues make a difference every day and this gives me an enormous pool of experience and resources to draw upon. I feel blessed to work in such an inspiring environment. Some years ago I met an elderly woman in Vietnam. She was 97 with no family of her own and lived alone in a very basic shanty. She was the village's healthcare worker and had been caring for her community for most of her life. Selfless and committed. She didn't say a word, but her commitment, care and strength were palpable. Everyone in the village knew her and now in her aging years someone called in daily to check on her. The respect and gratitude the community held for her was heart-warming. She allowed me to take a photo of her sitting in her shanty looking out of her window watching over her community. I have that photo on my office wall as a reminder.

# Words of wisdom

Always go with your gut but just remember to check in with your heart on the way there.

### Anne-Marie Judd

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