**Robyn’s story**

**Visual**

**The video begins. The screen is a white background. In the middle of the screen is the word ‘Listen” in large letters. Each letter is a different colour. Underneath that is a line, under which is written in smaller blue letters ‘Assoc Prof Robyn Maude’ and smaller again is written ‘Providing culturally responsive maternity care.’ This has another line under it.**

**Visual**

**The screen changes to show a woman speaking. This is Robyn. She is wearing a grey top with black spots. She has blond hair and is wearing glasses. Robyn is sitting on an armchair in a living room, in front of a wood burner. The screen changes to show Robyn holding a baby and kissing its cheek, in a different living room. The baby is wearing a feather cloak. There is a closeup of the feathers, with the baby clasping one of them.**

Audio

I’m Robyn Maude. I’m Associate Professor of Midwifery at Victoria University, but I’m also a Lead Maternity Care midwife. I’ve been working as a midwife for 46 years now.

**Visual**

**The screen changes back to Robyn talking. It shows a closeup of Robyn holding the baby then goes back to Robyn.**

Audio

We work in a partnership model here in New Zealand, and the partnership model is about building relationships, having informed choice and consent, understanding that the partnership is about trust and reciprocities, so culture plays a really important part of that. I think it’s really important to ask a woman right from the get-go, what are the things that you need to keep you culturally safe during your pregnancy?

**Visual**

**The screen changes to show Robyn holding the baby on her lap, smoothing its hair. Then it goes back to Robyn.**

Audio

Some women will struggle to give you those answers, so you can give a few prompts, particularly with our Māori whānau. We will talk about, you know, who do you want around with you, what sort of things would you like us to incorporate, like using muka ties on the umbilical cord or having somebody do karakia, and so being conscious that those things are important to our wahine is important for us as midwives as well.

**Visual**

**The screen changes to show Robyn holding the baby on her lap**, **then a closeup of Robyn’s hand on the baby’s hand. The baby is clasping Robyn’s little finger. It then goes back to Robyn.**

Audio

There’s plenty of things we can do to be supportive. Learning a little bit of te reo Māori is really important, some, you know, using those words occasionally just shows that you’ve got a commitment to understanding.

**Visual**

**The screen changes a closeup of Robyn and the baby, then back to Robyn.**

Audio

The whole role of culture is not just about ethnicity, it’s beyond that. You know, we may look after same sex couples, we may look after people who are having a surrogate child, we may look after people from many other different cultures around the world, and because we work in this partnership model, those principles go through every sort of thread of whart we’re doing in our care.

**Visual**

**The screen changes back to Robyn holding the baby, then a closeup of the baby smiling and laughing. It then goes back to Robyn.**

Audio

You need to listen to the woman and hear what she’s saying, but you also need to be alert to what she’s not saying. So be conscious that there may well be things that she’s not telling you and you haven’t anticipated.

**Visual**

**The screen changes back to the baby in Robyn’s arm, again with the feather blanket. It then shows a poster with Māori words, then the baby sucking its fingers while being held by its mother. The next image shows the mother putting a bone carving necklace around its neck, and then being held in mum’s arms while wearing the feather blanket. It then goes back to Robyn talking.**

Audio

Take the time to find out about the culture, ask her what she feels, talk about what things might be important and really, you know, get to know that family well. It makes a difference.

**Visual**

**The video ends, and credits show.**