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## Boomerang baby returns to RPA

Erin Smith was in good hands when she entered the world at King George V Memorial Hospital in 1995. As fate would have it, her birth wouldn't be the last time she, her mother Toni and Clinical Midwife Specialist Ann-Maree Whitton were in a room together.

Twenty two years later and Erin, now a graduate midwife at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, has found herself working alongside the very midwife who cared for her and mother Toni.



Erin Smith and Ann-Maree Whitton holding two of our tiniest patients.

"I always knew I wanted to work in health, especially because my mum would often talk about the care she'd received at RPA and, coincidentally, I have now come full circle," Erin said.

"Working with Ann-Maree is surreal; she cared for both mum and I. Now I'm learning from her."

Erin wants midwives like Ann-Maree to be acknowledged for their ability to make a difference.

"We are originally from Orange but mum had her IVF through RPA which is why she returned for treatment and that's how she met both Ann-Maree and her obstetrician at the time, Dr Brian Peat.

"At 20 weeks, my mum was diagnosed with twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome and sadly lost my twin sister at 22 weeks. I was born at 33 weeks and if it weren't for the team at RPA, she could have lost me as well.

"I know a lot of midwives shadow Ann-Maree and I want people to see that if you take care of and support your patients then you can change their life in a big way," Erin said.

Ann-Maree fondly recalls caring and comforting Toni during her 13 week stay in the antenatal ward.

"I remember feeling old when I found out from another colleague that I had cared for Toni and Erin all those years ago," she said.

"It is not very often that you find out how a mother and their baby are doing after they've left your care. Erin is not only a good person, but great with her patients."



Ann-Maree, who has been a midwife for more than 35 years and spent almost all of those years at RPA, couldn't believe the odds of caring and working with one of her patients.

"It is people like Erin and her mother who make my day. I get to share an important part of their journey and am grateful to be a part of their life even if it is only for a short time," she said.