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Canterbury Hospital midwife program proves popular with local mums

A new model of care established at Canterbury Hospital just over a year ago that allows expectant mums to team with the same midwife before, during and after the birth of their baby has proved to be an outstanding success.

Sydney Local Health District Chief Executive, Dr Teresa Anderson, said the Hospital’s Midwifery Group Practice was established in February, 2011, with a $340,000 State Government grant. Its aim was to provide safe and satisfying birthing experiences for low-risk women and a rewarding experience for midwives.

Dr Anderson said a year on, the program had proved to be extremely successful and popular with new mothers and families of the local community.

“The program allows the mothers to develop a strong and trusting relationship with their midwife and, as a result, have a more fulfilling pregnancy and birth experience,” Ms Harris said.

“Feedback received from the Hospital’s Patient Satisfaction Survey shows the program to be universally embraced by mothers from all cultural backgrounds.

“The program’s popularity is also demonstrated by the fully booked places and waiting list,” she said.

The Hospital’s Director of Nursing and Midwifery Service, Claire Harris, said South-Western Sydney was one of the fastest growing areas in NSW, with the Mothers and Babies report showing women who lived in western and southwestern Sydney accounted for 40 per cent of all new births.

“Canterbury Hospital’s Midwifery Group Practice allows the Hospital to offer a more comprehensive set of maternity services to the increasing number of women giving birth at Canterbury Hospital,” Ms Harris said.

“It also reduces pressure on the Hospital’s busy Birthing and Postnatal Units, by offering women the option of discharging directly from the Birthing Unit following birthing and receiving care in their home by their nominated Group Practice Midwife.

“Care is delivered in a multitude of settings, including women’s homes, while also providing services from rooms at Punchbowl Community Health Centre. The Midwives also visit mothers and babies at home for up to two weeks after the birth to make sure they were healthy and settled,” she said.