

What others have said about the National Maternity Action Plan

"I wholeheartedly endorse the NMAP. In any birth culture skilled and experienced midwives are a country's most precious resource. The benefit of one-to-one midwifery care goes far beyond any particular birth and any particular family."

Professor Sheila Kitzinger, childbirth educator

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"The NMAP is a well researched document which clearly outlines why Community Midwifery is safe, cost-effective and satisfying to both childbearing women and their midwives."

Kathleen Fahy, Professor of Midwifery, Newcastle

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"...This very important Action Plan is considered to have significant implications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women."

Sally S Gould OAM, Chairperson,

The Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses (CATSIN)

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"As a Group we endorse the National Maternity Action Plan as the way for the future of birthing in Australia. We would like to see its recommendations taken up by governments, and primary midwifery care during pregnancy and birth to be made available to all women."

Mid North Coast Birth Group (NSW)

For more information...

The National Maternity Action Plan is available at:

www.maternitycoalition.org.au/nmap.html

This site also includes:

a list of endorsements of the Plan,

up-to-date information about how the Plan is being implemented across Australia.

links to organisations that endorse the Plan

information on how to join the Maternity Coalition and support efforts to gain access for all women to community midwifery services.

The Maternity Coalition

For inquiries email:

Inquiries@maternitycoalition.org.au

Or write to: The Secretary
The Maternity Coalition Inc
PO Box 269
LYNEHAM ACT 2602

THE NATIONAL MATERNITY ACTION PLAN



**Towards better
maternity care
for all**



The Maternity Coalition

What is the National Maternity Action Plan?

The National Maternity Action Plan (NMAP) presents a vision for Australia's maternity services.

This vision is that all women in Australia be able to choose to be cared for during pregnancy, birth and early parenting by their own midwife, on a one-to-one basis.

Midwives are experts in normal and healthy pregnancy and birth. They are also able to recognise any problems and to involve doctors if the need arises.

More than 70% of pregnant women in the UK and New Zealand choose to be cared for by their own midwife.

Research proves one-to-one care from a known midwife to be safe and beneficial to women and babies.

NMAP is about all women in Australia being able to choose this care as an option within mainstream maternity services.

What does the NMAP say?

The NMAP calls on governments to introduce community midwifery services in urban and rural areas of Australia as a high priority

Community midwifery is where each woman is cared for by her own primary midwife from early in pregnancy til after the birth.

The NMAP outlines the reasons why this care is urgently needed including:

Australia has high rates of obstetric intervention compared to other advanced countries yet we don't have better safety

Australia has high rates of post-natal depression related to trauma during labour and birth

Research shows one-to-one midwifery care is safe, reduces women's need for interventions, lowers rates of post-natal depression and increases women's satisfaction with their birth.

What is The Maternity Coalition?

The Maternity Coalition played a leading role in developing the National Maternity Action Plan.

The Maternity Coalition Inc is a national, non-profit, umbrella organisation. We are committed to advocating for the rights of mothers and to improving maternity care for women during pregnancy, birth and early parenting.

In particular we urge governments and health providers to give all women in Australia access to maternity care that is safe, evidence based and responsive to each woman's individual needs.

The Maternity Coalition is also committed to providing information to pregnant women and their families so that people can make informed decisions about their pregnancy and birth care.

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www.maternitycoalition.org.au/nmap.html