

Birth in Brief

The monthly bulletin of Maternity Coalition, Victoria

Issue 1: September 05

Welcome

So here goes with the first issue of *Birth in Brief*, keeping you up to date with the latest birth news from the Victorian branch of Maternity Coalition.

Call for articles

We need your input! Send me birth news, be it related to events in Victoria, or of general interest; details of upcoming events; reports on meetings; announcements; requests for help. These are all needed to make *Birth in Brief* a useful newsletter. Send your news in to me any time during the month, but I'll send out a reminder in the last week of each month to get articles into me by the first. As you can see from the articles here, it only takes a short paragraph to let us know what you've been up to, or are planning for the month ahead.

Birralee Maternity Unit, Box Hill Hospital

Quarterly audits indicate that the total caesarean rate in April, May, June 2005 is 22%, which is well below the State average (28.6% in 2003 - PDCU). Also Box Hill is one place where breech babies get special attention (other than elective C/S), and external cephalic version is attempted. Box Hill

has set up a trial "Early External Cephalic Version Trial" (EECV2). Anyone with queries can call the trial coordinator Jo Baumgartner at the hospital 03 9895 3333 or 0408 031 319.

International Definition of the Midwife

The following has been adopted by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) 19th July 2005. It supersedes the ICM International Definition of the Midwife 1972 and its amendments of 1990.

'A midwife is a person who, having been regularly admitted to a midwifery education programme, duly recognized in the country in which it is located, has successfully completed the prescribed course of studies in midwifery and has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practice midwifery.'

'The midwife is recognized as a responsible and accountable professional who works in partnership with women to give the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period, to conduct births on the midwife's own responsibility and to

provide care for the newborn and infant. This care includes preventive measures, the promotion of normal birth, the detection of complications in mother and child, the accessing of medical or other appropriate assistance and the carrying out of emergency measures.'

'The midwife has an important task in health counselling and education, not only for the woman, but also within the family and community. This work should involve antenatal education and preparation for parenthood and may extend to women's health, sexual or reproductive health and childcare.'

'A midwife may practice in any setting including the home, community, hospitals, clinics or health units.'

And finally

And just to fill up the rest of the space, here's a picture of my own happy little baby, Sam.



SEPTEMBER DIARY

11 Sep	10.00–15.00	National Caesarean Awareness Day, Northcote Town Hall
20 Sep	9.30–12.30	Birth Works: Ceres Environmental Part, Brunswick, in the cafe

Announce your October events here!

Please send all news, notices and reminders for inclusion in *Birth in Brief* to the Editor louise.hartley@gmail.com by the first of each month.