



National Preterm
Birth Prevention
COLLABORATIVE

update
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Every Week Counts: National Preterm Birth Prevention Collaborative

Hundreds descend onto the MCG for 2nd Learning Session



National efforts currently underway to safely prevent preterm and early term birth celebrated another milestone event in Melbourne recently.

Victorian Minister for Health, the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas, joined 240 attendees from more than 60 Australian maternity hospitals at the iconic MCG to officially open the second critical Learning Session of the Every Week Counts: National Preterm Birth Prevention Collaborative.

The session featured interactive activities and presentations across the two days. Highlights included team presentations of their storyboards to share their learning, a deep dive into the collaborative strategies and the improvement methodology that will help them to achieve their aims, as well as breakout sessions on topics such as Cervical Length Measurement, Continuity of Care, Optimal Timing of Birth, and Empowering Women.

The event garnered positive feedback from attendees, where participating teams reported that the event will help them make positive changes within their maternity services to decrease preterm and early term birth. Further details of this feedback is [available here.](#)



Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas with Executive Leaders from partner organisations

At the Learning Session representatives from each of the partner organisations shared their thoughts and insights on the Collaborative and how it is poised to make a lasting impact on Australia's maternity sector.

[Watch the video here](#)

Inspiring Yarn with First Nations women

First Nations leadership and representation across all levels of healthcare remains absolutely crucial in designing and shaping improved access, services, and delivery for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

As part of the recent National Collaborative Learning Session held in Melbourne, a very special 'Yarn' involving a number of leading First Nations health professionals, scholars and researchers generated powerful reflections and thought provoking ideas on how to deliver culturally safe maternal & newborn care for First Nations communities.

The panelists also provided participating hospitals with robust strategies and resources to assist them to improve care and outcomes for First Nations women. This includes showcasing of existing maternity services that are partnering effectively with Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations to improve the cultural safety of care, with impressive positive results.



Watch the video of Prof Yvette Roe, Prof Cath Chamberlain, Dr Kiarna Brown, Kristie Watego and Storm Henry and their Yarn 'How can we help to reduce risk of preterm birth for First Nations women?' below

[Watch the video here](#)

Collaborative key to Closing the Gap



Preterm birth continue to disproportionately impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island women and their newborns, with rates being almost double that of non-indigenous babies at 17% nationally.

An innovative preterm birth prevention program led by the NT chapter of the Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance is taking aim at this unacceptable disparity and the hope is that it will provide a roadmap for improved outcomes for all First Nations women and their children

Read the feature in the National Indigenous Times below

[Read the feature here](#)

Consumer Engagement

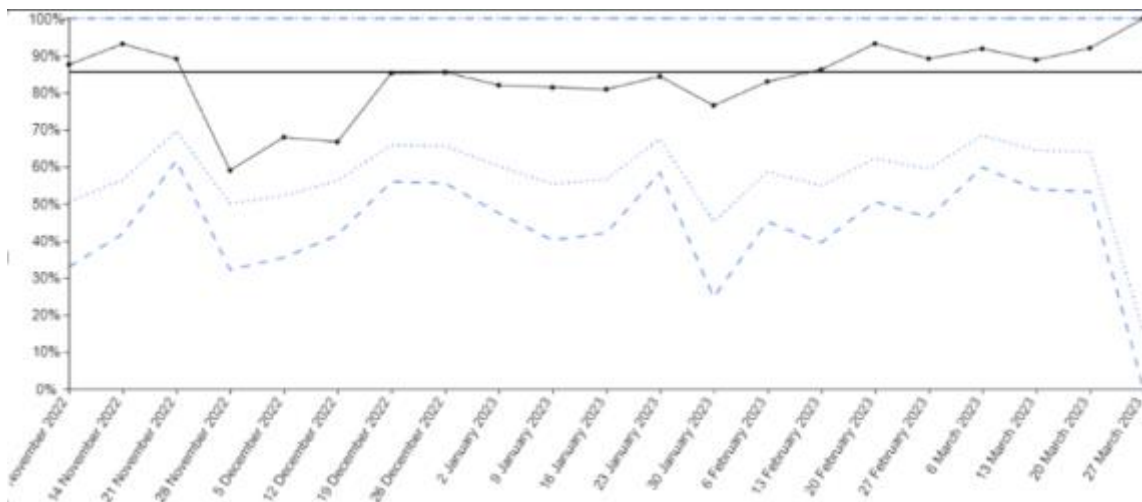


Consumer participation in the Every Week Counts National Collaborative remains strong and reflects the commitment of the Collaborative team to codesigning with consumers. The Consumer Lead continues to attend weekly project meetings and is actively supporting the design and delivery of content at face-to-face learning sessions and web meetings. In addition, the consumer lead is driving the activity of the Collaborative Consumer Advisory group and supporting the and promoting consumer participation within participating teams.

[Read more here](#)

Using Data to Drive Improvement

Throughout the Collaborative, the team from participating hospitals and health services are being taught and supported to collect and share data on the process and outcomes of care they are achieving, and to understand how to use data to drive change in clinical practice. Currently, 96% of teams are reporting on outcome and balancing measures, and 92% are reporting on one or more process measures. Although it is too early to confirm a change has occurred in rates of early birth, there are promising signs in the data. Watch this space



Example Run Chart of Collaborative Process Data

Figure 1: Percent of women involved as much as they want in decision making

Every Week Counts Magazine out soon



The 2023 edition of the Every Week Counts Magazine will be published on Friday, 2 June.

This 12-page magazine will contain expert editorial relating to pre-conception and pregnancy care, as well as the latest in the field of preterm birth prevention. This magazine, a major public health education vehicle for the National Preterm Birth Prevention Program, will be circulated to pregnant women, maternity care providers and health professionals across the country.

Hardcopies of the magazine (as well as a digital version) will be made available to all participating Collaborative hospitals. To secure your magazines please email us with a contact name and postage address.

Email us at collaborative@wcha.asn.au

Frances Perry House launches their involvement in Collaborative in grand style



Frances Perry House is amongst 60+ other maternity hospitals, and the only Private Hospital, to be a part of the Every Week Counts National Preterm Birth Prevention Collaborative. In early February, Frances Perry House held a dinner meeting attended by medical and midwifery staff at the Grand Hyatt Melbourne to officially launch their involvement in the National Collaborative.

[Read the feature here](#)

Our Partners



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Improvement



SCI
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Victoria

The Every Week Counts National Collaborative is a joint collaboration between the Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance, Women's Healthcare Australasia (WHA), the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) and Safer Care Victoria, which is being funded by the Commonwealth Government through the Women's & Infants Research Foundation.

Partner organisations include Women's and Babies Research, Every Week Counts, Centre of Research Excellence in Stillbirth, Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand and the Australian College of Midwives.

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