**Midwives and Acute Early Pregnancy Care Study**

**Participant Information Form – Online Survey**

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**What is the study about?**

This study seeks to explore the role and scope of practice of midwives providing acute (i.e., unscheduled) early pregnancy care in Australia. Under 20 weeks gestation, many women receive acute care in an emergency department or similar setting, which may be staffed by a variety of health professionals. The midwife is an integral part of maternity care provision in Australia, but there is less known about what midwives do and the role they play in the provision of acute care in early pregnancy.

**Who is doing the research?**

This study is being conducted by midwife and PhD student Nicole Freeman as part of a supervised Doctoral research program at Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia. She is supported by a Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund, Clinician Research Training Scholarship through Curtin University and North Metropolitan Health Service, Western Australia. The Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee has approved this study (HRE2022-0211).

**Why am I being asked to take part and what will I need to do?**

You are invited to participate as you are a midwife or midwifery student currently practicing in Australia. You do not need any acute early pregnancy knowledge or experience to participate. Your insights regarding the role and scope of practice of midwives in this area of practice is highly valued.

You will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey accessed via a link or QR code provided by the researcher. The survey will consist of 5 groups of questions with discrete response options. There will also be a free text question at the end of the survey for you to elaborate on any aspects of the survey topic should you wish to. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

**Are there any benefits from being in the study?**

Your participation will benefit the midwifery profession as it will provide a better understanding of the role and scope of the midwife in acute early pregnancy care in Australia. Ultimately, this will inform practice and contribute to improving the care women and families receive at this time.

**Are there any risks, discomforts, or inconveniences from being in the study?**

It is not anticipated that participating in this study carries any individual risk to you. Taking part in a research project is voluntary. There will be no impact on your employment and participation is at your discretion and confidential. You have the right to withdraw from the study at any point without compromise. Any data already entered will be used for analysis owing to the anonymous nature of the survey, entries cannot be identified or, therefore, withdrawn.

Discussing the care of women with early pregnancy complications can trigger emotional responses. [Confidential counselling services](https://www.nmsupport.org.au/) are available to you if you need them.

**Who will have access to my information?**

All survey responses are stored on a university- supplied survey account only accessible by the research team. All your responses are anonymous and cannot be connected to you in any way. Authorised university supervisors for this project will have access to your coded data for the purpose of supporting the primary researcher. Only aggregate data will be reported, and it will not be possible to identify you. Electronic data will be kept on a secure, encrypted, password-protected network. Hard copy data will be in locked storage. In keeping with the requirements of the National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines, all information collected in this study will be kept under secure conditions at Curtin University for seven years after the research is published and then it will be destroyed.

The results of this research may be presented at conferences or published in professional journals. You will not be identified in any results that are published or presented. By taking part in this study, you agree not to restrict the use of any data even if you withdraw. Your rights under any applicable data protection laws will not be affected.

**What happens next and who can I contact about the study?**

At the beginning of the survey, there will be a statement and checkbox that you will be required to read and click to confirm you understand all the information regarding the study that is provided in this information sheet. Once you check the box, your consent to participate in the study is confirmed. If you require further information on any aspect of this study, or would like to participate, please contact the researcher team via phone or email.

**Researcher:**

Nicole Freeman, PhD candidate, Curtin University, Western Australia [nicole.a.freeman@postgrad.curtin.edu.au](mailto:nicole.a.freeman@postgrad.curtin.edu.au)

**Supervisors:**

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| Dr Zoe Bradfield PhD Associate Professor of Midwifery  Curtin University [zoe.bradfield@curtin.edu.au](mailto:zoe.bradfield@curtin.edu.au) | Prof Tracey Moroney PhD OAM  Head of School of Nursing  Curtin University  [tracey.moroney@curtin.edu.au](mailto:tracey.moroney@curtin.edu.au) |

Should you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, in particular, any matters concerning the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, or you wish to make a confidential complaint, you may contact the Curtin University Ethics Officer on (08) 9266 9223 or the Manager, Research Integrity on (08) 9266 7093 or email [hrec@curtin.edu.au](mailto:hrec@curtin.edu.au)