



# Safety & Quality in Maternity Care

## Insight Forum Program

24-25 November 2025  
Rydges North  
Sydney, NSW




## Day 1 – Monday 24 November 2025

08:30- 09:00 Registration - tea & coffee available


09:00 – 09:10	<b>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country Introductions &amp; Goals for the Forum</b>	<b>Barb Vernon</b> Chief Executive Officer Women's Healthcare Australasia
09:10 – 09:20	<b>Speed Dating: Let's Re-Connect!</b>	All participants

### Setting the scene

09:20 – 9:50	<b>What's changing in labour and birth care across Australia?</b> Insights into clinical outcomes from WHA's latest Benchmarking Maternity Care reporting in WHA's <i>data4me</i> portal How can WHA's <i>Data4Me</i> portal help with quality improvement efforts at our own hospitals?	<b>Barb Vernon</b> Chief Executive Officer Women's Healthcare Australasia <b>Nicole Carlon</b> WHA Director & Senior Midwifery Leader from a range of VIC maternity services
09:50 – 10:20	<b>Tea Room Talk: Dissecting fact from fiction</b> How can we best promote critical thinking, evidence-based discussion, and separate misinformation from credible knowledge to improve practice and patient outcomes?	<b>Prof Jonathan Morris</b> Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology MFM Specialist President, Women's Healthcare Australasia
10:20 – 10:50	<b>Roundtable discussions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>What insights does your latest WHA Benchmarking Maternity Care report provide about areas of strength at your service?</li><li>What opportunities do you see for improvement?</li></ul>	


10:50 – 11:20 Morning tea (30 minutes)

### Improving the quality of maternity services through partnering with women


11:20 – 11:40	<b>Listening to the Voices of Women</b> Integrating PROMs and PREMs into the maternity care journey	<b>Valerie Slavin</b> Assistant Director of Midwifery - Research Gold Coast University Hospital, QLD
11:40 – 12:00	<b>Designing decision aids for meaningful birth choices</b> A consumer and clinician co-design project to support informed decision making for women	<b>Bethan Townsend</b> Midwife - Decision Aid Project Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital, QLD
12:00 – 12:20	<b>Empowering dads, supporting families, and promoting infant mental health</b> Successfully implementing a collaborative project to provide peer support for new fathers, promoting their mental health, and building resilience among individuals and families	<b>Helen Gunter</b> RM Child Health Nurse <b>Tom Docking</b> CEO Dad's Group Sunshine Coast University Hospital, QLD
12:20 – 12:40	<b>Roundtable discussions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>What approaches are your service using to learn from women about opportunities to enhance care and service design?</li><li>What tools/resources do you have or are you developing?</li><li>What have been your achievements and challenges when partnering with women?</li></ul>	

12:40 – 1:20 Lunch (40 mins)

## Enhancing care and support for women with complexities in pregnancy

1:20 – 1:40	<p><b>Strengthening safe, equitable psychological care in the perinatal period</b> Lessons from a 12-month audit of psychology referrals offers a valuable opportunity to enhance service delivery</p>	<p><b>Leah Chrisp</b> Senior Psychologist <b>Sheree Menon</b> Senior Clinical Psychologist Townsville HHS, QLD</p>
1:40 – 2:00	<p><b>MAPS Caseload for women with complex psychological vulnerabilities</b> Multidisciplinary antenatal care in community, home, and hospital settings for women and families with varying psychosocial needs</p>	<p><b>Alana Blowers</b> Midwife, Blacktown &amp; Mount Drutt Hospital, NSW</p>
2:00 – 2:20	<p><b>Midwifery Intrapartum Virtual Advice Support Service (MIVASS) pilot</b> This innovative six-month pilot provides after-hours and weekend backup support from midwives at WCHN to 19 regional LHN birthing services across SA, assisting isolated midwives with advice, foetal monitoring review, and clinical support on all shifts</p>	<p><b>Rachael Yates</b> Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery &amp; Consumer Experience <b>Bianca Bartel</b> Midwifery Unit Manager, Women's Assessment Service, Women's &amp; Children's Health Network, SA <b>Vanessa Drummond</b> Nursing and Midwifery Director Maternity Services &amp; Women's Health, Riverland Mallee Coorong LHN, SA</p>
2:20 – 2:35	<p><b>Roundtable discussions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What new things are you working on to improve outcomes for women with more complex pregnancies? What is working? What is hard?</li> </ul>	

## Facilitating health and healing in the postnatal period

2:35 – 2:55	<p><b>Post birth conversation clinic at Royal Hobart Hospital</b> Opportunity for women to access a booked postnatal appointment to discuss and go over their birth experience with a midwife or doctor. Differing to 'debrief' clinics, the initiation of this clinic is built around an identified gap in service and listening to what women need to feel supported and empowered</p>	<p><b>Hannah Yates</b> Acting Assistant Director of Midwifery <b>Felicity Turnbull</b> Clinical Midwifery Consultant Royal Hobart Hospital, TAS</p>
2:55 – 3:15	<p><b>Wattle Clinic – following pregnancy loss</b> Women accessing the Clinic after Pregnancy Loss reported high satisfaction, valuing continuity of care and midwives familiar with their story, highlighting the importance of personalised, supportive, midwifery-led pregnancy care</p>	<p><b>Tina Bode</b> Midwifery Unit Manager Women's &amp; Children's Health Network, SA</p>
3:15 – 3:30	<p><b>Roundtable discussions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What supports are your service providing to support healthy transition to parenthood?</li> <li>What is your bereavement care pathway? How effective is it from women's viewpoints?</li> </ul>	

**3:30 – 4:00 Afternoon Tea (30 minutes)**

## Celebrating the WHA Community!

4:00 – 4:30	<b>WHA AGM – Achievements during 2024-25</b>
4:30 – 4:50	<b>WHA Medal of Distinction for 2025 – Team presentation</b>

### Complimentary networking function - Medal of Distinction ceremony

*The TreeHouse Hotel - Terrace*

6.30pm - 9.30pm

Enjoy roaming canapés, refreshing beverages, and a relaxed, welcoming vibe. Nestled beneath the trees and vibrant umbrellas, we invite you to unwind and connect.

60 Miller Street - 9 Minute Walk




# Day 2 – Tuesday 25 November 2025

08:15 – 8:30 Tea & coffee on arrival


08:30 – 08:40	<b>Welcome to Day 2</b>	<b>Barb Vernon</b> Chief Executive Officer Women's Healthcare Australasia
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## Optimising Care during labour & birth

08:40 – 09:00	<b>Engaging clinicians to identify and reduce unwarranted clinical variation –the PICNIC program</b> Utilising implementation science to address unwarranted clinical variation to create meaningful behaviour change and system-level improvements for better healthcare outcomes	<b>Dr Kym Warhurst</b> Staff Specialist –Obstetrics and Gynaecology Mater Mothers Hospital, QLD
09:00 – 09:20	<b>Rethinking IV fluids during IOL</b> IV fluid boluses during induction of labour are routinely administered without physiological evidence. They may suppress vasopressin, reduce oxytocin receptor responsiveness, and increase risk of failed induction and operative delivery	<b>Dr Darren Lowen</b> Anaesthetist, Perioperative Medicine & Pain Northern Hospital, VIC
09:20 – 09:40	<b>Maternal and neonatal outcomes following induction of labour (&lt;39 Weeks) in primigravida women</b> A retrospective audit of inductions before 39 weeks in a regional Australian hospital found higher neonatal and caesarean risks at 37–38 weeks. Outcomes improved after 38 <sup>+1</sup> weeks, reinforcing Every Week Counts and supporting stricter adherence to early-term induction guidelines	<b>Dr Abeer Saeed</b> Obstetrics & Gynaecology Registrar <b>A/Prof Roshan Zeirideen Zaid</b> Consultant Obstetrics & Gynaecology - Fertility Specialist South West Healthcare, VIC
9:40 – 10:00	<b>Roundtable discussions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What strategies are you using at your place to minimise unwarranted clinical variation in care?</li> <li>How confident are you that your service's decision making around induction of labour is optimising outcomes for women and babies?</li> </ul>	

10:00 – 10:30 Morning Tea (30 minutes)

## Workforce Sustainability & Capacity Building


10:30 – 10:50	<b>Supporting new graduate midwives in MGP: Impact, sustainability, and practical approaches</b> Insights from PhD research on new graduate midwives in MGP, exploring impact, sustainability, and practical strategies for leaders to implement continuity of care models	<b>Deyna Hopkinson</b> Clinical Midwife Consultant Project Manager and Jurisdictional Lead Preterm & Early Term Prevention Project, Clinical Excellence Queensland, QLD
10:50 – 11:10	<b>Optimising MGP workforce in remote communities</b> The unique workforce challenges for remote MGP workforce including distance and travel, acuity, sustainability and planning frameworks, highlighting the urgent need for tailored data, modelling, and scalable statewide strategies	<b>Michelle O'Connor</b> Director of Midwifery Torres & Cape HHS, QLD
11:10 – 11:30	<b>Transitioning to clinical practice: Urban &amp; rural rotational</b> Research explores first-year clinical medical students' experiences in urban rotational versus rural longitudinal placements, with findings transferable to other health profession students, highlighting insights on transition to clinical practice and education	<b>Vanessa Ryan</b> Divisional Director - Midwifery, Perinatal & Women's Health Yorke & Northern LHN, SA
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Roundtable discussions (Regional, Rural and Metro)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What workforce challenges are your service experiencing?</li> <li>What is helping you attract and retain your workforce?</li> </ul>	

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch (1 hour)

## Innovations in developing service capabilities

1:00 – 1:20	<p><b>How to expand a service in 30 working days</b></p> <p>The sudden maternity service closure within 41 days disrupted care for privately insured women in the South West, increasing pressure on public hospitals, and requiring urgent action to support women, staff, and clinical services</p>	<p><b>Katrina Jones</b> Clinical Midwifery Manager Bunbury Hospital, WA</p>
1:20 – 1:40	<p><b>Enhancing safety &amp; quality through a cost-effective point-of care education model</b></p> <p>Clinical Midwife Level 6.1 coaches were embedded at the bedside, enhancing safety, care quality, staff confidence, and education completion through point-of-care learning, simulation, and ongoing workforce development</p>	<p><b>Leanne Ferris</b> Nursing and Midwifery Educator for Maternity, Child and Family Health Wide Bay HHS, QLD</p>
1:40 – 2:00	<p><b>Use of translational simulation to support implementation of a homebirth program</b></p> <p>Translational Simulation was used to test equipment for the Homebirth Program at the Women's. As a result of using this approach innovative changes were made improving safety for homebirth midwives and the mothers and babies in their care</p>	<p><b>Natalie Jeantou</b> Associate Unit Manager Caseload Midwife The Royal Women's Hospital, VIC</p>

## Greening Maternity Care

2:00 – 2:20	<p><b>Nitrous Oxide use in labour - incorporating environmental considerations into maternity care</b></p> <p>Nitrous oxide is a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Reducing its wastage and rationalising its use has the greatest potential to reduce the environmental impact of our care</p>	<p><b>Dr Emily Balmaks</b> Specialist Anaesthetist Monash Medical Centre, VIC</p>
2:20 – 2:40	<p><b>Roundtable discussions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does your maternity service monitor the use of nitrous oxide for pain relief in labour?</li> <li>• What opportunities do you see to reduce reliance on nitrous oxide?</li> <li>• What alternative pain relief methods are you finding effective that have lower greenhouse emissions?</li> </ul>	
2:40 – 3:00	<p><b>Highlights &amp; Close</b></p>	<p><b>Barb Vernon</b> Chief Executive Officer Women's Healthcare Australasia</p>

3:00

Close of Insight Forum

Please take a moment to complete our event feedback survey using the QR code below



**We value your feedback. Thank you for your contributions to the 2025 WHA Safety & Quality in Maternity Care Insight Forum!**