



# Communiqué

## Maternity Services Steering Committee

The Maternity Services Steering Committee (MSSC) was established to provide advice to the Minister for Health on implementing the recommendations of *Re-birthing: Report on the Review of Maternity Services in Queensland*. As can be seen from the Terms of Reference the MSSC is required to begin the work of implementation of *Re-birthing*. The MSSC, chaired by Dr Cherrell Hirst AO, had its inaugural meeting on Wednesday, 14 December 2005. The MSSC will meet bi-monthly in March, May, August and November, with meetings to be held on the first Wednesday of the month, however, the work of the MSSC will be predominately undertaken through Working Parties (as described below) which will report back to the Steering Committee.

### **Membership**

The membership of the MSSC is drawn from the body of maternity stakeholders in Queensland. The list of members can be found overleaf. Each representative on the MSSC has equal voice and has the responsibility of representing the views of their constituency throughout the process.

### **Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference for the MSSC are high level and relate directly to the Queensland Government's response to the *Re-birthing*. Specifically, the MSSC is to provide expert clinical, consumer, academic and policy advice to the Minister for Health on the implementation of reform in accordance with the Government response to *Re-birthing*. The Committee will:

- report through the Chairperson to the Minister for Health
- progress priorities for Stage 1 implementation of the recommendations of the *Re-birthing* report;
- commence implementation of the preliminary implementation plan 2005–2007
- oversee the development of the business case, policy framework and work plan for the proposed Cooperative Centre for Mothers and Families in the context of recommendations of the Queensland Health Systems Review (Forster Review) and the Queensland Public Hospitals Commission of Inquiry (Davies Commission) by June 2006
- develop a Stage 2 implementation plan beyond 2007 around the recommended strategies by end October 2006
- establish sub-committees to assist it effectively and efficiently perform its function.

### **Working Parties**

A number of working parties are currently being established to undertake the work program of the Committee. The working parties will canvas a range of activities including risk management, key performance indicators of clinical performance, rural settings and design of rural clusters of care, indigenous birthing and consumer information.

The membership of the working parties will be drawn from the MSSC, with other stakeholders coopted as appropriate.

### **Major Priorities for the MSSC**

#### **Maternity 2010: Co-operative Centre for Mothers and Families:**

The MSSC will oversee the development of the state-wide, independent Cooperative Centre for Mothers and Families which will provide expert advice to Government on best practice maternity services. The MSSC will develop the detailed business case and policy framework required to establish this Centre.

The following clinical matters will be addressed by specific Working Parties: Development of a comprehensive Risk Management Framework for Maternity Services; Establishment of Key Performance Indicators for Maternity Services for monitoring purposes; the Design of Rural Clusters of Care; and Indigenous Birthing.

### Demonstration Projects:

Another priority for the MSSC is to determine the design of 'demonstration projects' and to consider the establishment of such projects to examine models of care for mothers and newborn babies that will value add to current knowledge and practice.

### Consumer Participation and Information:

A further Working Party will begin the work of providing comprehensive and independent information via a number of modalities for consumers and planning the undertaking of a consumer survey by the end of 2007.

### ***Secretariat Support for the MSSC***

A dedicated secretariat is being established to support the work of the MSSC and its working parties. Until this secretariat is established all queries or requests for information should be made through Sandra Eyre, A/Manager, Policy and Legislation Branch, Queensland Health. Sandra can be contacted on 323 54186 or via email at [Sandra.Eyre@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Sandra.Eyre@health.qld.gov.au).

### ***Committee Membership***

Cherrell Hirst	Chair
Helen Atkinson	Department of Communities
Rachel Atkinson	Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Council
Sandiellen Black	Childbirth Education Association
Fiona Bogossian	University of Queensland (Midwifery)
Bruce Chater	Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
Jennifer Gamble	Australian College of Midwives Incorporated
Zhihong Gu	Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland
Clare Maher	Royal Australian College of General Practice
Suzanne Mason	Private Hospital Association
Glenda McLaren	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Kristina Palmer- Field	Australian Breastfeeding Association
Rachel Sailor	Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy
Judy Searle	Griffith University (Obstetrics)
Bruce Teakle	Maternity Coalition
Faye Thompson	James Cook University (Midwifery – Rural and Regional)
David Tudehope	Ministerial Appointment (Neonatology)
Kerry Ungerer	Office for Women
<i>Queensland Health Representatives</i>	
Roxanne Ramsey	Queensland Health (General Manager, Northern Area Health Service)
Jeannette Young	Queensland Health (Chief Health Officer)
Jillian Jeffery	Queensland Health (Chief Nursing Advisor)
Michael Ward	Queensland Health (Clinical Practice Improvement)
Paul Howat	Queensland Health (Public Sector Obstetrician)
Mellissa Knox	Queensland Health (Public Sector Midwife)