

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Dalby Hospital midwives gain lactation consultant qualifications**

Five midwives at Dalby Hospital have gone above and beyond to provide the best care for local mothers and their babies.

The team of midwives, which includes Melinda Daniels, Anne Lane, Alison Fels, Danita Driscoll and Kerry Noller, underwent a 12-month course in preparation for the International Lactation Consultant Exam which is held annually on the same day across the world.

All five successfully passed the exam to become internationally qualified lactation consultants.

“One of our midwives expressed an interest in undertaking the course,” Dalby Hospital midwife Melinda Daniels said.

“This encouraged other midwives at the hospital to also show an interest.

“We had a group of 13 midwives who were keen to participate. We then contacted the facilitator who agreed to provide the course, just for our group, in Dalby.”

All 13 midwives completed the course, however, in order to sit the exam, each needed to log 1000 hours providing advice to women about lactation.

The exam was held in July, with positive results being released earlier this year.

“Completing the course and all of those clinical hours is an achievement in itself,” Ms Daniels said.

“It has resulted in five midwives with internationally recognised skills and the most up-to-date knowledge about breast feeding.

“It is wonderful news for the hospital and the women we look after.

“Previously, local women had to travel to Toowoomba or Brisbane for the services our Dalby-based lactation consultants can now provide.”

The Dalby midwives were recently recognised for their efforts at the inaugural DDHHS Employee Awards as finalists in the ‘openness to learning and change’ category.

#### **Photograph caption:**

Dalby midwives (from left) Anne Lane, Alison Fels, Danita Driscoll, Kerry Noller and Melinda Daniels were recently recognised for their efforts to become internationally qualified lactation consultants at the DDHHS Annual Employee Awards.

**Ends**

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