Extended midwifery service expands for Cooloola mums

Cooloola mums-to-be can now have their antenatal check-ups close to home in Tin Can Bay.

The check-ups, performed by experienced midwives, are part of the Extended Midwifery Service offered by Gympie Hospital’s Maternity and Women’s Health Unit.

Nurse Unit Manager Shaneen Osborne said the antenatal appointments were held every Thursday by appointment at the back of the Tin Can Bay library.

“Sometimes it can be time consuming for Cooloola women to travel to Gympie Hospital for their antenatal check-ups.

“With the Cooloola region experiencing so much expansion, it was decided to make this antenatal service available locally to assist mums-to-be.”

Women can book their appointment by phoning 5489 8724 during office hours.

The postnatal Extended Midwifery Service is also available to Cooloola women. This service provides a home visiting service, available to any woman for up to four weeks following the birth of her baby, is aimed at supporting mothers in the initial postnatal period.

Ms Osborne said the home visits enable midwives to give ongoing feeding and other advice to the new mums in the comfort of their own homes.

“The midwives can also offer referrals to other support services if, and when, required,” she said.

“Feedback has been wonderful since we introduced this service in early January 2012, with mums commenting on the individual and personalised service they receive.”

“Gympie has a significant birth rate (about 350 births a year) and it is important to the health of new parents and babies to provide support to women following discharge from hospital.”
The Extended Midwifery Service operates Monday to Saturday and is available to all women who have their babies at Gympie as well as women who live in the Gympie/Coolum area but who, for various reasons, may have had their babies at Nambour General Hospital.

First time mums are able to access up to three visits and other mums can get one visit on an as needed basis within the first month of baby’s life.

Postnatal appointments are booked by the Extended Midwifery Service midwife individually, or by phoning 5489 8759 during office hours.

**Media opportunity:** Interview with antenatal patient and midwife can be arranged.

ENDS

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