9 May 2014

More choices for pregnant women
at Nambour Hospital

The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) is now offering a maternity service which enables pregnant women to have their babies at Nambour General Hospital under the care of their own private midwives.

Nursing Service Director of Women’s and Family Services Cathy Styles said the collaborative agreement is part of the Queensland Government’s commitment to the National Maternity Services Plan aimed at providing women with more choices in pregnancy and childbirth.

“The Nambour Hospital Maternity Unit, local obstetricians and private midwives on the Sunshine Coast will forge a unique agreement which allows private midwives to book in and admit mothers to Nambour General Hospital Maternity Unit,” Ms Styles said.

“The new model of care has many benefits including increased birthing choices for local women, strengthening the process for mothers to have continuity of care and seamless transfer of care from midwife to medical care.

“We have good links between Nambour General Hospital and local private midwives and we will develop those more fully so that midwives will have private admitting rights to the hospital.

“This means that once credentialed and licenced, private midwives can book in and admit mothers to Nambour Hospital Maternity Unit as private patients under their care. These midwives can also continue to provide midwifery care while the mother is an inpatient.”

Another key aspect of this collaborative arrangement is that if the mother requires more specialised care, the midwife can consult with or refer to a Nambour General Hospital Obstetrician.
“We look forward to seeing this collaborative arrangement come into effect at Nambour General Hospital and feel proud that our community has worked together to bring great innovation in maternity care to the Sunshine Coast,” Ms Styles said.

Media/photo opportunity – interview with private midwives and patients – Monday 12 May at 12.30pm, Nambour (contact Jude Rhodes for directions.)

ENDS

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Fast facts:

CONTINUITY OF CARE

Benefits for Women

More likely to:

• Have a normal birth
• Have a more positive experience of labour and birth
• Be satisfied with her maternity care
• Successfully breastfeed her baby
• Cost the health system less

Benefits for Babies

More likely to:

• Be born at term
• Be born healthy