How can I be a part of a Midwifery Group Practice?

- Phone the Antenatal Clinic at Cairns Hospital on 42268760 and request Midwifery Group Practice (MGP)
- Ask yourGP to send a referral to the Antenatal Clinic requesting MGP and/or Birth Centre care

Places fill early so contact the hospital once your pregnancy has been confirmed

To request MGP care, or for further information, please phone the Antenatal Clinic

42268760

Web portal

If you would like to comment on our services, please email:
chhhs_feedback@health.qld.gov.au

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**What is a Midwifery Group Practice (MGP)?**

Midwifery Group Practice (MGP) is a type of maternity care where women are supported by a known midwife for their pregnancy, labour, birth and postnatal care.

Most of the pregnancy and post birth visits will be with the primary midwife who is also on call for labour care. The midwife works in a small group, and women can meet these midwives during the pregnancy so that they know them if back up is required (eg when the midwife is on leave or not on call when labour begins). Each group of midwives is called a MGP.

MGP care is offered to women with low to moderate complicating factors. Those with higher level complications are not eligible for this service.

**Benefits of MGP Care**

A woman who receives care from a known midwife is more likely to:

- Have a normal birth of a healthy baby at term
- Have a more positive experience of labour and birth and be more satisfied with her care
- Successfully breastfeed

**Pregnancy care**

- Visits can be in the home, Community Health Centre or hospital
- Midwife may attend medical appointments
- Individualised education

**Labour & Birth**

- Care is provided in the hospital Birth Suite or Birth Centre
- The woman can call her midwife when she is ready to come to hospital, the midwife (or back up) will come in and be with her for the labour & birth
- The MGP midwife will also be there if a planned induction or caesarean is needed
- Early discharge from Birth Suite / Birth Centre at 4-6 hours can be facilitated

**Post birth care**

- If staying in the Maternity Ward, hospital midwives will provide care until discharge
- Primary midwife will continue care for 4 weeks visiting in the home or Community Health Centre
- Women are encouraged to see Child Health Nurse and/or GP after discharge from MGP care

Cairns Hospital Birth Centre is a separate section within the Women’s Health Unit offering MGP families a more homely, relaxed environment for natural labour and birth.

**Women choosing the Birth Centre should be:**

- A client of a MGP
- Healthy with an uncomplicated pregnancy
- Planning active labour & birth without medicated pain relief
- Wanting to go home directly from the Birth Centre 4 hours after the birth