Cairns Hospital’s Birth Centre and Midwifery Group Practice

The new Birth Centre at Cairns Hospital will open in August 2016. It is located in the hospital near the current Birth Suite. The Birth Centre is for women with a low risk pregnancy who plan on having an active labour and birth with minimal pain relief (showers, water immersion and entonox will be available).

The Birth Centre will be run by the Midwifery Group Practice (MGP) midwives. In order to access the Birth Centre women require a place in the MGP program, so a MGP midwife can attend them throughout their labour and birth. If no complications arise, women will be able to go home 4-6 hours after their birth and be followed up closely by their midwife.

The MGP midwives require **early referrals** from GPs once a pregnancy is confirmed, as places in the MGP program are limited and fill up quickly. The women are allocated to a primary midwife who provides their antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care for 4 weeks. Evidence shows this type of continuity of care provides many benefits to pregnant women’s birth outcomes, satisfaction levels and breastfeeding rates.

There are 20 FTE midwives working in the MGP. They mostly work in teams of 5 (Beaches, North, Central and South currently). They provide care for women based on their residential address (from Gordonvale to Palm Cove). It is an all risk model, meaning that women with high risk pregnancies can still be cared for by an MGP midwife, who will attend some of their Obstetrician appointments with the woman.

Upon request, the MGP midwife can write you a letter upon taking over care of women who choose this model of care. MGP midwives will notify you upon the completion of the woman’s care and her intentions to return to you for care after her first 4 weeks of postnatal period.

We greatly appreciate your support in providing women with this choice of maternity care.

Please contact the Antenatal clinic for more information on 4226 8760