

MEDIA RELEASE

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Babies have a friend in the Warwick Hospital

The Warwick Hospital has received official accreditation under the national program, the Baby Friendly Health Initiative (BFHI).

The initiative acknowledges hospitals, and other community health organisations, that “protect, promote and support breastfeeding” through a number of policies and actions.

The accreditation process is carried out by the Australian College of Midwives, based on processes developed by the World Health Organisation and UNICEF.

“To be considered a ‘baby-friendly’ hospital is quite a significant achievement,” Warwick Hospital Director of Nursing Anita Bolton said.

“A lot of work is put into the process to ensure all staff, not just those working in maternity, have contemporary information and knowledge regarding infant feeding.”

Ms Bolton praised staff who undertook the accreditation process for the benefit of local mothers and their babies.

“Our maternity service staff, led by Associate Nurse Unit Manager Ross Newton, are dedicated, passionate people who work hard to ensure the best outcomes for their patients,” Ms Bolton said. “This accreditation is testament to their hard work and commitment.”

Mr Newton said although the accreditation process was complete, the process continued.

“We have to now continue our work to maintain the BFHI status,” he said.

“Mothers attending the Warwick Hospital can be assured they will have access to the best information and support about infant feeding, both before and after the birth of their babies.”

The Warwick Hospital achieved particularly good feedback from the BFHI auditors about its processes to ensure mothers had support through the Community Child Health Service to foster breastfeeding once discharged from hospital.

Ends

Caption: Warwick Hospital midwives (from left) Tanya Ogden, Ross Newton and Kerry Roche, with baby Lacey Wotton, celebrate the Warwick Hospital’s recent Baby Friendly Health Initiative accreditation.

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