



National Framework for Maternity Services project - fact sheet 1

November 2016

The National Framework for Maternity Services project

As agreed by Health Ministers at the April 2016 COAG Health Council meeting the National Framework for Maternity Services project will incorporate two components:

- Evaluation of the processes that occurred in developing and implementing the National Maternity Services Plan 2010 – 2015
- Development of an enduring National Framework for Maternity Services incorporating an antenatal health risk factors strategy.

Maternity Care Policy Work Group

The Maternity Care Policy Working Group (MCPWG) has been established as a time limited working group under the auspices of the Community Care and Population Health Principal Committee (CCPHPC), a principal committee of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC). The MCPWG is a group of key jurisdictional officials established to oversee the process evaluation of the National Maternity Services Plan 2010-2015 (NMSP) and the development of an enduring National Framework for Maternity Services (NFMS).

The MCPWG will provide guidance to an independent consultant and report regularly to CCPHPC and AHMAC on the progress of the project. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (Deloitte) has been appointed as the independent consultant to conduct this important project.

The membership of the MCPWG:

- Graham Kraak (Chair), A/Executive Director, Strategic Policy and Legislation Branch **(Queensland)**
- Sharon McDonald (Secretariat), Principal Policy Officer, Strategic Policy Unit **(Queensland)**
- Debra Thoms, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer **(Commonwealth)**
- Deb Matha, A/Director, Maternity, Child, Youth and Paediatrics, NSW Ministry of Health **(New South Wales)**
- Jane Pepper, Manager, Women, Youth and Child Health Policy **(Australian Capital Territory)**
- Ann Burgess, Midwifery Advisory to the ACT Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer **(Australian Capital Territory)**
- Katy Fielding, Assistant Director, Perinatal Services and Clinical Councils, Department of Health and Human Services **(Victoria)**
- Associate Professor Rod Hunt, Director of Newborn Intensive Care, The Royal Children's Hospital, Chair of Victoria Perinatal Safety and Quality Committee **(Victoria)**
- Francine Douce, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer **(Tasmania)**
- Bonnie Fisher, A/Executive Director, Nursing and Midwifery, Women's and Children's Health Network **(South Australia)**
- Tracy Martin, Principal Midwifery Advisor, Department of Health **(Western Australia)**
- Kate Race, Senior Policy Officer, Territory Wide Services Division, Department of Health **(Northern Territory)**



The evaluation of the process that occurred in developing and implementing the National Maternity Services Plan 2010 – 2015

The evaluation will focus on the processes in developing and implementing the NMSP, rather than an evaluation of the achievements and outcomes against specific priority areas in the NMSP.

The evaluation will focus on the context around the development of the NMSP and the challenges faced in the implementation of the NMSP. This evaluation is important in informing the development and contributing to the successful implementation of the NFMS.

National Framework for Maternity Services

The NFMS will provide a vision and principles for the delivery of maternity services in Australia. The framework will provide a structure for jurisdictions to develop jurisdictional plans having regard to their local circumstances.

- The NFMS will incorporate an antenatal health risk factors strategy.
- The NFMS will be an enduring framework that will be reviewed at agreed intervals.

Consultation

Deloitte, the independent consultant, will conduct a literature review and develop a draft NFMS following consultation with key stakeholders, including consumer representative organisations and clinical workforce groups such as the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Australian College of Midwives. It is expected the consultation sessions to inform the development of the NFMS will occur in late November and early December 2016. A consultation draft of the NFMS will then be made available for stakeholder comment in early 2017 before a final draft is submitted to AHMAC and the COAG Health Council for approval.

The NFMS project is expected to be finalised before 30 June 2017.

If you would like further information about any of the initiatives outlined in this fact sheet, please **contact:**

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