

## MEDIA RELEASE



**12 November 2014**

### **Mothers urge Federal, State and Territory Governments to progress National Maternity Services Plan**

Four years ago today, the Federal Government and all the State and Territory Health Ministers promised women better access to more choices in maternity care by implementing the National Maternity Services Plan. A key commitment of this 5 year plan is to give women the ability to choose a private midwife to care for her in pregnancy, birth in hospital, and for 6 weeks after birth, with access to Medicare Rebates. With 1 year to go, only 8 hospitals across Australia are giving women this choice.

Maternity Choices Australia Vice President and mother of two, Ildiko Keogh said that \$120.5 million dollars was committed to reform Australia's maternity care system. "We have the money, the midwives and consumer demand; now we need leadership from the Government and public hospitals to make it happen before time runs out".

"If the government and public hospitals were delivering this plan on time, then every woman in every state could access care in their local community, from a midwife they know and trust and the hospital would save money."

An online petition starts today and will send the Federal, State and Territory Governments a clear message that women have not forgotten the promise made.

<https://www.communityrun.org/petitions/improve-women-s-access-to-high-quality-maternity-care-with-medicare-eligible-midwives>

Ms Keogh said, "We are reminding politicians of an agreed solution, not a problem; one that saves money and one that consumers want."

Maternity Choices Australia welcomes the opportunity to work with other hospitals around Australia to make this option available to their community by this time next year as outlined by the National Maternity Services Plan.

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