



## **The National Maternity Services Plan Implementing Primary Maternity Care**

### ***National Maternity Services Plan 2011-2015 (NMSP)***

- To coordinate implementation of the Commonwealth maternity services reform package, Commonwealth budget May 2009
- Reform package: \$120.5 million to improve choice, access and continuity in maternity care
- Plan: focussed on enhancing women's access to primary maternity services
- Key reform: MBS, PBS and subsidised PII to enable women's access to continuity of private midwifery care
- Committed to by all states and Territories in 2010

### ***Hospital access for eligible midwives***

- NMSP: All governments committed to *facilitate the clinical privileges, admitting and practice rights of eligible midwives*
- Later years of plan (2014-15): *evaluate access to clinical privileges, admitting and practice rights for eligible midwives*
- 2014: Qld is only state with credentialed midwives in public hospitals

### ***Eligible midwives***

- "GPs of primary maternity care": community-based, continuity of care
- Comprehensive safety and quality framework (NMBA)
- Full range of MBS items
- Prescribing qualification and PBS prescribing ability
- Able (and required) to refer to medical specialists

### ***Hospital access for eligible midwives***

- Midwives credentialed to admit women as private patients for birth care
- Similar to NZ model which provides care to majority of NZ women
- Operating successfully in Qld since 2010
- Significant savings for public hospitals and privately insured women
- Key risk management strategy:
  - Integrates private midwives with hospital clinical governance and CPD
  - Seamless access to medical referral and acute care
  - reduce high-risk homebirth and freebirth
  - expiry of homebirth exemption June 2015



### ***Abbreviation List***

- MBS – Medicare Benefits Scheme
- PBS – Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
- PII – Professional Indemnity Insurance
- CPD – Continuing Professional Development
- NMBA – Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia