

# Maternity Community of Practice News

Newsletter 1 – April 2008

## Who are we?

The Maternity Project “community of practice” (CoP) is an informal network of professionals, established in 2005, working on a range of projects which aim to improve maternity care in Victoria.

These projects operate within the “Future Directions” policy framework for maternity care in Victoria. Some of these projects are directly funded by DHS and other projects are initiated by individual health services.

Projects include:

- Victorian Maternity Record (VMR)
- Intrapartum Fetal Surveillance monitoring
- Victorian Maternity Education Program
- A New Approach to Psychosocial Support in Pregnancy (ANEW)
- 3centres Collaboration

For further information about these projects see [www.health.vic.gov.au/maternity\\_care](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/maternity_care)

## What do we do?

The CoP meets quarterly to create a professional learning environment focussed on projects, exchange information, share ideas and learnings, promote synergy between maternity projects and provide peer support to project staff.

Once a year, the group identifies a topic which may be of interest to the wider maternity service network, and offers a workshop and facilitates networking -with a broader audience (see [www.3centres.com.au](http://www.3centres.com.au) for information on recent presentations.)

The CoP compile a quarterly newsletter to distribute to maternity care networks, including people who have attended CoP workshops and registered an interest in receiving ongoing information. These newsletters contain brief project updates on maternity projects, as well as information about “What’s on” (eg educational opportunities and meetings) that may be of interest to the broader maternity network and “What’s new” (issues which may be of interest).



## What’s on?

**Twilight forum:  
EVALUATION IN  
MATERNITY CARE**

**PRESENTED BY  
DR DELWYN GOODRICK  
5-7pm, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>  
June 2008**

RANZCOG.  
254-260 Albert St, East  
Melbourne

For registration and further  
information contact

[Catherine.chamberlain@  
southernhealth.org.au](mailto:Catherine.chamberlain@southernhealth.org.au) or  
ph 9594 7734

The next maternity project  
CoP meeting will be held  
on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 9-  
11am, at RWH.



## What's new?

### **The Victorian Maternity and Newborn Clinical Network (MNCN)**

Clinical networks have been defined as "linked groups of health professionals from primary, secondary and tertiary care working in a coordinated way that is not constrained by existing organisational boundaries to ensure equitable provision of high quality, clinically effective care...The emphasis shifts from buildings and organisations towards services and patients."

The Victorian Maternity and Newborn Clinical Network's purpose is to take a "whole of Victoria" approach and provide expert advice to maternity service providers related to the development and delivery of high quality clinically effective maternity and neonatal services.

MNCN is one of a number of networks being set up in Victoria including: Stroke, Renal, Emergency and Cancer. All health services are members of the network and a management team including a director, manager and 5 network facilitators have been appointed. A representative leadership group has also been appointed. The inaugural meeting of the leadership group took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2007 at which a work plan was agreed. The MNCN has agreed to work towards 3 key result areas (KRA). KRA 1 is to establish the network as an efficient and effective partnership of maternity service providers. KRA 2 is to develop a planning base for sustainable system improvement and KRA 3 is to utilise existing information systems to inform practice improvement. An executive sponsor has been nominated by each health service to receive communication about the network and facilitate communication within their own organisation. Keep an eye out for further information as the initiative develops.

For further information, contact Glenda McDonald on 03 9096 5227 (Mon, Tues, Thurs)

## What's going on in DHS?

### **Maternity Performance Indicators**

Maternity Services has published the 5th annual statewide performance indicator report for public hospitals providing maternity services -

*Victorian Maternity Services Performance Indicators - Complete set for 2006/07*. Victorian public hospitals providing maternity care report annually against a suite of 10 evidence-based performance indicators addressing both process and outcome measures from pregnancy through to the early postnatal period.

The report provides risk-adjusted data at a statewide and individual hospital level, enabling comparisons across services and a focus for targeted performance improvement activities. The report is a valuable resource for the newly established Maternity and Newborn Clinical Network in its objective to improve the quality of maternity care in partnership with health services across Victoria.

The report can be found at

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/maternitycare/>.

Printed copies are available from Sabrina D'Cruze, Programs Branch.

Other elements of the DHS Maternity workplan for 2007 - 08 include:

- Monitoring demand and working with services in development and implementation of demand management strategies
- Supporting the development of the Midwifery Refresher Program to be delivered by Mercy Werribee
- Supporting the development of the HIV pre-and post test counselling short course for midwives
- Continued work to strengthen the performance indicator set and associated data collection
- Working with health services in the implementation of new models of care e.g. caseload
- Collaborative work with Nurse Policy and Service and Workforce planning parts of DHS to progress the maternity workforce issues
- Oversight of the Koori Maternity Program
- Working towards development of e-VMR

For further information about these or other DHS initiatives, contact Julie Jenkin, Manager, Maternity Services 03 9096 0109

### Brief maternity project updates:

- **Fetal Surveillance Education Program (FSEP)**

We focus on improving understanding, interpretation and management of the cardiotocograph (CTG) and associated fetal monitoring techniques. We offer single and multiday face-to-face workshops that have been successfully delivered throughout Australia and New Zealand and are currently working on the development of an online program, a reliable assessment tool and the publication of a handbook to complement our face-to-face education.

Contact: [Holly Coppen on 9412 2958](mailto:Holly.Coppen@rwh.org.au)

- **Victorian Maternity Education Program**

In 2007, 19 **Pregnancy Care Education** workshops were facilitated at metropolitan, regional and rural services. Prior to each workshop a site visit was conducted and this meeting with key maternity service representatives was integral to the overall success of the workshop. The workshops consisted of a variety of modules which were selected by each service to reflect the priority areas of upskilling for their clinicians. Workshops provided participants with an update on the underpinning evidence, a showcase of resources as well as the opportunity to learn in the multidisciplinary setting. Simulated patients were used as part of the communication upskilling activities. In 2008, the workshops continue to be offered and there will be a focus on the developing of resources for clinical educators.

Since the commencement of the **Maternity Emergency Program** in 2005 a total of 30 health services have received the program. The majority of these sites represent primary or secondary maternity care providers. Demand continues with a plan to deliver a further 10 workshops during 2008 and work is underway to develop further resource materials to support the program.

Contact: [Bree.Bulle@rwh.org.au](mailto:Bree.Bulle@rwh.org.au)

- **ANEW**

2007 has seen Margie Cass and Lisa Love, project coordinators based at Mercy Hospital for Women (MHW) deliver the program to MHW, Werribee Mercy, Northeast Health Wangaratta, Ramsay Health Mildura, Eastern Health Birralee Box Hill. The program was received very well and attained very positive evaluations. Early 2008 will hopefully see a program delivered to Traralgon.

Contact: [llove@mercy.com.au](mailto:llove@mercy.com.au)

- **Victorian Maternity Record (VMR)**

The VMR is currently available to women in 31 of Victoria's 58 public birthing services plus 7 services providing only pregnancy care. In 2008 the VMR will be introduced into Melbourne metropolitan hospitals and while the eVMR is still a way off, the work has begun.

Contact: [Jenny Gore on 8345 1683](mailto:Jenny.Gore@rwh.org.au)

- **3Centres Collaboration**

The 3Centres Collaboration aims to improve the uptake of evidence into maternity care. Our current focus is on implementing evidence based consensus guidelines in antenatal care (particularly smoking cessation). We have recently updated the gestational diabetes information in the "guide to tests investigations in uncomplicated pregnancies" and are assisting tertiary services with investigating indications for caesarean sections.

Contact: [Cath Chamberlain on 9594 7734](mailto:Cath.Chamberlain@rwh.org.au)

