

# Maternity Project Community of Practice (MPCoP) News

Newsletter 3 – February 2009

## What's new?

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

The MNCN has identified service capability, collaboration, consistency in practice, education and data systems as priorities, and is undertaking work in the following areas:

- Improving maternity audit and performance improvement planning.
- Reducing the variation in induction of labour rates for women with uncomplicated pregnancies.
- Reducing the variation in rates for vaginal birth after caesarean.
- Improving consistency in practice in relation to admissions to special care nurseries.
- Development of a Victorian Maternity and Neonatal Capability Framework.

The MNCN hosted a statewide forum on 12 February 2009 in Melbourne to introduce perinatal audit tools with simulated learning for local application. March has been designated perinatal audit month and services will be expected to analyse audit results locally with assistance available from relevant MNCN clinical expert groups. Further information regarding the MNCN can be found at: [www.health.vic.gov.au/clinicalnetworks/maternity](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/clinicalnetworks/maternity)

## Whats on?

### MPCoP twilight Forum

**Improving recruitment and retention in Maternity care.**

**Professor Sue McDonald.**

5.30-7.30pm **Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> June** 2009, Conference Centre, L1, Royal Women's Hospital, Flemington Rd, Carlton.

Video conferencing facilities will be used.

Light refreshments available.

For further information contact

Catherine.chamberlain@

southernhealth.org.au or

ph:0410 417963

**PSANZ 13<sup>th</sup> annual congress "A top end experience. Better birthing, better babies"**

**19-22 April 2009. Darwin.**

For further information see:

<http://www.psanz.org.au/>

**PSANZ Perinatal Mortality Group and ANZ Stillbirth Alliance workshop. 18-19 April, 2009.**

For further information contact madeleine.elder@mater.org.au



## Next MPCoP meeting:

9.30-11.30am, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2009, including discussion about Project Management, by Dr Julie Shaw. Rm G10 KSEC, 251 Faraday St, Carlton

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Catherine.chamberlain@southernhealth.org.au or ph:0410 417963

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## Maternity project updates:

### **Victorian Maternity Services Education Program (MSEP)**

As a key initiative of the Future directions for Victoria's maternity services the Maternity Emergency Program continues to facilitate multidisciplinary site specific education in primary, secondary and tertiary maternity services. A total of 12 workshops were conducted during 2008 with the majority conducted in rural and regional maternity services. Much interest has been shown to access the program for 2009, particularly from rural and regional services.

MSEP are currently rolling out new resources developed in 2008 including a visual medication tool, reflex assessment video and a post partum haemorrhage prompt tool. Further work is underway with lead representatives in hematology and blood bank to develop an access to blood product in an emergency module for maternity care clinicians.

Program facilitators have also been invited to participate in other collaborative education programs involving maternity emergency education with Ambulance Victoria, Adult Retrieval Victoria and the Health Services Interprofessional Network at Monash University Gippsland.

Contact:  
[Bree.Bulle@thewomens.org.au](mailto:Bree.Bulle@thewomens.org.au)  
[Caprice.Gellman@thewomens.org.a](mailto:Caprice.Gellman@thewomens.org.au)  
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### **Fetal Surveillance Education Program (FSEP)**

Following on from a busy 2008 the FSEP has another full year ahead. Current program developments include:

- The FSEP has completed the much anticipated handbook (Fetal Surveillance - a practical guide) in conjunction with Southern Health. The book is set for publishing in March, 2009.
- Work on the validation of the FSEP test is progressing well. New individualised feedback forms (graphic item maps) are also being generated to give practitioners an understanding of their strengths and weaknesses in the area of fetal surveillance.
- The popular FSEP Online Program (OFSEP) is being updated with additional modules under development. This is now available as a stand-alone product.
- The FSEP continues to deliver high quality, cost effective CTG education throughout Australia and New Zealand, with over 11 000 participants having completed the program to date.

For further information please contact:  
FSEP Administrator on 9412 2958

### **The Victorian Newborn Resuscitation Project (VNRP)**

The VNRP is a 12 month project, funded by the Department and auspiced by NETS-Vic which aims to develop & implement a multidisciplinary, standardised teaching program for newborn resuscitation in Victoria.

Contact: Dr Julie Shaw, Project Manager at [julie.shaw@netsvic.org.au](mailto:julie.shaw@netsvic.org.au), on telephone 9344 3461 or mobile 0412 036 474.

### **A New approach to psychosocial support in pregnancy (aNEW)**

2008 was a very successful year for *aNEW*

The program was funded for five courses which were successfully completed. Organisations to receive the course were La Trobe Valley, Mercy Hospital for Women, Werribee Mercy, Bendigo Health and The new Royal Women's Hospital in Parkville. All evaluations were very positive and continue to show us that effective communication is vital to the delivery of women centred care.

This year demand has been great from organisations visited in the past for a repeat course. Lisa Love and Margie Cass continue in their positions as Project Managers and look forward to a busy year ahead.

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

### **3Centres Collaboration**

3centres is scoping a project to develop up to nine guidelines, to improve consistency between tertiary maternity services in Victoria:

- Antepartum haemorrhage
- Pre-eclampsia
- Preterm labour
- Placenta praevia
- Preterm rupture of membranes
- Normal labour
- Macrosomia
- Cervical shortening
- breastfeeding

An audit report of emergency caesarean sections in nulliparous women has been drafted. The audit builds on previous work which identifies emergency caesarean sections in this group as the greatest contributor to the overall increasing caesarean section rate.

The Cochrane Review on "Interventions to Promote Smoking Cessation in Pregnancy" has been updated and submitted for publication.

Contact: Cath Chamberlain on 9594 7734

### **What's going on in the Department? Maternity Services Program**

#### *Future Directions*

Further work has been undertaken in 2008 to more clearly define the four main principles of the *Future Directions for Victoria's Maternity Services (Future Directions)* policy released in 2004. Characteristics of a *Future Directions* maternity service have been articulated and examples from maternity services across metropolitan, rural and regional Victoria have been provided in the document: *Future Directions* principles in action; examples from the field. This document can be found at: [www.health.vic.gov.au/maternitycare/directions.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/maternitycare/directions.htm)

#### *Maternity Workforce Grants*

Applications have closed for the 2009 DHS Maternity Workforce Grants. Normal grants are valued at \$12,000 and minor grants are valued at \$3,000. The purpose of the grants are to assist services with recruitment, retention and optimal use of work-force skill-mix. Forty-eight applications have been received and recipients of the grants will be notified at the end of February.

#### *Maternity Services Performance Indicators: Complete Set for 2007-08*

The MPI Report 2007-08 has been completed and will be available at:

[www.health.vic.gov.au/maternitycare/progs.htm#perform](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/maternitycare/progs.htm#perform) from mid February. Three of the indicators have been revised to better reflect quality of care for MAT-1 Outcomes for standard primiparae, MAT-2 Term infants without birth defects who require additional care and MAT-5 The Gestation Standardised Perinatal Mortality Ratio.

Contact: Julie Jenkin, Manager, Maternity Services 03 9096 0109

## Who are we?

The Maternity Project Community of Practice (MPCoP) is an informal network of professionals who work on a range of projects which support maternity care services throughout Victoria.

The projects are aligned with Future Directions for Victoria's Maternity Services (Future Directions, 2004), which sets a framework for gradual but strategic development of the state's maternity services. The focus of Future Directions (2004) is on women and supports collaborative teamwork between maternity care professionals to provide maternity services which:

- are safe and high quality
- promote primary maternity care with support from and referral to medical expertise when required
- make the best use of complementary professional skills
- enhance a team approach
- provide women with choice

Some projects are directly funded by the Victorian Department of Human Services (Department) and other projects are initiated by individual health services.

For further information about Future Directions see [www.health.vic.gov.au/maternitycare](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/maternitycare)

To enquire about the MPCoP contact [Catherine.chamberlain@southernhealth.org.au](mailto:Catherine.chamberlain@southernhealth.org.au)

## What do we do?

The MPCoP:

- Publishes this **newsletter** twice a year to provide information about our projects for our colleagues working across maternity care services in Victoria
- **meets quarterly** to exchange information, share ideas and learnings, promote synergy between maternity projects, and provide peer support to project staff.
- Facilitates an **annual Twilight Forum**, which may be of interest to the wider maternity service network (see [www.3centres.com.au](http://www.3centres.com.au) for information on recent presentations.)

## How can I join?

Anyone undertaking projects related to maternity care is welcome to join the MPCoP.

Please contact [Catherine.chamberlain@southernhealth.org.au](mailto:Catherine.chamberlain@southernhealth.org.au) if you are interested in joining the group or receiving regular newsletters by email.