

Friday, 21 July 2017

## Milton Ulladulla Maternity Service update

Milton Ulladulla families now have access to a 7-day antenatal and postnatal service, under the Level 1 Model of Care that has been established for the Maternity Service at Milton Ulladulla Hospital. This latest milestone forms part of the larger body of work being undertaken which aims to re-establish a safe and appropriate maternity service in Milton.

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District Midwifery Co-Director Maternity and Women's Health, Melissa Cooke said that under the new model, three midwives will provide services to local families from Sussex Inlet to South Durras.

"It's fantastic that we're now able to provide antenatal and postnatal services, seven days a week, to local women and families.

"Not only does this mean the community is able to access these services closer to home, it will also allow families to become familiar with the midwives working in the local area who will be providing antenatal clinic appointments and home visits," Ms Cooke said.

Under the Level 1 Model, an Obstetrician will continue to visit Milton each Wednesday morning for clinic appointments to assist in providing care to women of the local area. At this stage women will continue to birth at Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital.

Midwives, Melissa Waterton, Leanne Whitehouse and Christine Duff will provide the 7-day midwifery service, looking after mums and their babies before and after they give birth at Shoalhaven.

"The midwives will be developing antenatal education classes for women and partners to provide knowledge, support and education for pregnancy, childbirth and parenting. We recommended all parents attend the antenatal classes, especially first time parents," she said.

It is recommended that women attend their first 'booking in' visit at around 12-14 weeks pregnant, where a comprehensive medical history is undertaken and pregnancy information and education discussed. The booking in visit at Milton Ulladulla Hospital will automatically book women into Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital.

The Antenatal Clinic is located on the Ground Floor of Milton Ulladulla Hospital in the Allied Health Department. Local women and families can contact the Milton Ulladulla Hospital midwives on phone: 4454 9116.

Meanwhile, the Steering Committee and Model of Care group are continuing to focus on further developing the maternity service at Milton Ulladulla and fully exploring the reintroduction of Level 2 birthing services.

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“The next steps in further reviewing the maternity service will require a great deal more work, given the complexities of the clinical and organisational requirements. These include ensuring that the proposed model of care is both safe and sustainable and is supported by the appropriate workforce and core services.

ISLHD Chief Executive, Margot Mains said there will be some changes to the membership of the Steering Committee to align with some recent staff movements within the Local Health District.

“The District’s Medical Co-Director Maternity and Women’s Health, Dr Keith Allenby recently announced his resignation, after accepting a position in Western Australia.

“Dr Allenby has been an incredibly valuable member of the Steering Committee and has provided a great amount of leadership and expertise throughout the review process. We thank him for his contribution,” Ms Mains said.

“Representatives from the health service will continue to work together with local clinicians and community representatives to ensure that we can develop the most appropriate service for Milton Ulladulla Hospital,” she said.