

## Registered Midwife

### What does a Registered Midwife Do?

The ICM definition of nursing states that:

A Registered Midwife is recognised as a responsible and accountable professional who works in partnership with women to give the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour and the post-partum period, to conduct birth on the midwife's own responsibility and to provide care for the newborn and the infant. This care include preventative measures, the promotion of normal birth, the detection of complications in mother and child, the accessing of medical care or other appropriate assistance and the carrying out of emergency measures.

The Registered Midwife has an important task in health counselling and education, not only for the women, but also within the family and the community. This work should involve antenatal education and preparation for parenthood and may extend to women's health, sexual or reproductive health and child care, as well as peri-natal and post-natal care of mother and child. A midwife may practise in any setting including the home, community, hospitals, clinics or health units (ICM 2011). In Australia, midwifery is also defined through the registered midwife competencies and the code of conduct and code of ethics for midwives in Australia.<sup>4</sup>

### Where do I study to become a Registered Midwife?

- Master of Midwifery and Graduate Diploma of Midwifery –Charles Sturt University
- Bachelor of Midwifery – University of Newcastle, University of Technology Sydney and University of Western Sydney – Parramatta Campus

### A day in the life of a Rural Registered Midwife

- Deliver quality, efficient and effective person-centred care which meets the needs of the patients and their families or carers
- Plan midwifery care based on assessment findings, identify priorities and evaluate against established goals in conjunction with the patient and their families and carers
- Act as an advocate to assist patients and their families and carers make informed decisions about their health care
- Respond effectively to emergency situations and the changing status of the patient

### Career opportunities

- Public Hospitals
- Aboriginal Health
- Community Health Centres
- Management, education and research
- Nursing Specialties

### What sort of person should I be?

- Ability to accept responsibility
- Ability to meet the many and varied challenges
- Commitment to ongoing professional development
- Friendly, warm, caring and empathetic
- Skilled at both written and verbal communication
- An organised and clear thinker
- Ability to relate to people of varied backgrounds
- Ability to work with others in a team and adapt to new situations

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<sup>4</sup> AHPRA Website