

# How to Become a Midwife in Hunter New England

Issued: February 2022

*The HNELHD participates in the education and training of midwives who are enrolled in a University Midwifery Program.*

Welcome and thank-you for visiting our intranet site. We are excited that you are considering a career in Midwifery at one of our Hunter New England Local Health Districts (HNELHD) Maternity Units.

HNELHD Maternity Units offer paid employment to registered nurses 'midwifery students' while they undertake their midwifery program. The HNELHD maternity units include; **John Hunter, Tamworth, Maitland, Armidale, Inverell, Glen Innes Moree, Narrabri, Gunnedah, Singleton** and **Taree** hospital from the Manning. As a collective our units assist with the care of women leading to the births of approximately 10,000 babies. Specific information relating to each of the Hunter New England Hospitals and their maternity units is presented on another fact sheet.

HNE Health has a long history, and extensive experience, in preparing midwives for registration and practice. The way we prepare the majority of midwifery students for practice and registration changed in 2011. We anticipate, that in the Lower Hunter, most midwifery students will be enrolled in a three year undergraduate *Bachelor of Midwifery Program*.

HNELHD recognises that **registered nurses** will still want to become midwives and is therefore committed to continued provision of clinical places and clinical education for registered nurses enrolled in a *Postgraduate Midwifery Program*. HNE Maternity units are committed to meeting the postgraduate clinical requirements

of the 'University Programs' leading to registration as a midwife,

## **The Continuity of Care Experience**

An essential component of a midwifery program is the 'Continuity of Care Experience' (CCE). Most Midwifery programs state that a student midwife must participate in a minimum of 10 CCE's during their course.

The student midwife will meet with their CCE woman a number of times during the pregnancy, be present for the birth and visit the woman in the postnatal period. The CCE allows midwifery students to experience one to one midwifery care, woman centred care, the importance of the woman-midwife relationship and, pregnancy, birth and the early parenting through the woman's eyes. For most midwifery students this experience is in addition to their working hours and academic requirements and may involve travel. Please make enquires with the University you will be participating with to fully understand the FTE requirements of the program.

**For further information please contact: Belinda Meyers on 0439 427 783**

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