

What if I change my mind?

Your views and experiences at this time are important and if you do not wish to continue to have a midwifery student with you at any time then please contact the person listed on your consent form.

We respect your right to change your mind at any time. Your choice not to have a midwifery student with you will not affect your care in any way.

How do I find midwifery student?

You may meet midwifery students through your social networks or during your pregnancy care. If you wish to begin the continuity journey with a midwifery student, or you want more information, ask your midwife, doctor or email the CDU Bachelor of Midwifery Course Coordinator: angela.bull@cdu.edu.au

Thank you for your interest.



Useful links

Charles Darwin University www.cdu.edu.au

Australian College of Midwives www.midwives.org.au

The Australian College of Midwives has information for consumers on its web site. You will find information on birth choices, what midwives do, breastfeeding and other useful information.

Australian Breastfeeding Association www.breastfeeding.asn.au/
Maintains a 24 hour helpline - 1800 mum2mum (1800 686 2 686)

Raising Children Network <http://raisingchildren.net.au/>

An Australian Parenting resource. This is an initiative of the Australian government and provides information on parenting from infancy to the early years at school.

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Continuity of midwifery care program

Are you expecting a baby?
and
Are you interested in sharing
your journey through pregnancy,
birth and early parenting
with a midwifery student?

Are you expecting a baby?

Would you like to share your experience of pregnancy, birth and the early days of parenthood with a midwifery student?

Who is a Midwife?

A midwife is someone who is qualified to provide care to a woman during her pregnancy, birth and following the birth of her baby. Midwifery is a woman centred discipline founded on the belief that pregnancy and childbirth is a normal profound and precious event in each woman's life. Midwives work alongside other health care professionals if complications arise. Midwives can work in the community, in hospitals or in women's homes.

Who are Midwifery Students?

The midwifery students are studying at Charles Darwin University (CDU) and at the completion of their course they will be eligible to register as a midwife in Australia. They are under the direct supervision of a qualified and registered midwife at all times.

As part of their midwifery studies these students need to gain an understanding of pregnancy, birth and becoming a new mother from a woman's perspective. This is best achieved by sharing some of the experiences a woman has during her pregnancy through to the early weeks after she has given birth.

What will the Midwifery Student do?

The midwifery student will meet with you to get to know you and discuss their involvement with your pregnancy and birth. The student will be with you and provide midwifery care for you under the direct supervision of a midwife or doctor. They will:

- Attend some of your antenatal appointments
- Be with you at the birth of your baby if you wish this to happen, and if the student is available at that time

→ Visit you or contact you after the birth of your baby.

If you have agreed to have a midwifery student with you during your birth journey, you will be asked to sign a consent form. You should keep a copy of this form. A copy of this form will be kept in your medical record, in a secure location at the university and the student will retain a copy for their university requirements. The university may pass on your name and estimated date of birth to your primary carer or hospital venue to notify them that you have agreed to have a continuity of care midwifery student with you during your care.

What are the Benefits?

- You will get to know the midwifery student and they will get to know you during your pregnancy
- The midwifery student will be able to offer you support and continuity
- The midwifery student will be able to learn about the experiences of women during the first few weeks with a new baby
- This experience will also help the midwifery student to understand and gain valuable skills in midwifery including woman centred care.

Studies have shown that women experience a high level of satisfaction from the continuity experience with a midwifery student (Browne and Taylor, 2014)

Browne, J. & Taylor, J. (2014). "It's a good thing...": Women's views on their continuity experiences with midwifery students from one Australian region. *Midwifery*, 30(3), e108–e114.