How are students supervised?
When students are working in the health service they are supervised by the midwifery staff or by a suitably qualified medical practitioner. A clinical supervisor (her name and contact details are provided below) oversees how the student relates to you and your family. During supervision meetings the supervisor assists the student to reflect on the way they behave in their relationships with women. This is done in order to help the student learn optimal ways of relating to women. In supervision the focus is on the student, not the woman. If discussing some aspect of their work with you (for example with other midwifery students), your student midwife will not reveal your identity.

What if I say 'yes' and then change my mind?
It is easy to stop seeing the student without giving a reason at all. Here are a number of ways you can do that: You can tell the student you don’t want any more contact and they will not try to persuade you. You can ring the Midwifery Professional Experience Leader or the person in charge of the Midwifery Course (see staff contact details on the back of this form). If you were in the hospital at the time you decided you didn’t want to see the student again you would tell any member of the midwifery staff and they would let the student know and s/he would inform the University.

What do I need to do in order to get involved in this one-to-one midwifery learning experience?
You may ask midwifery staff at the hospital to put you in touch with a student midwife or contact us (see staff contact details on the back of this form).

How can I give feedback which contributes to student learning?
We will invite you to give feedback on your experience with the student via an online survey after you have given birth. Participation in the online survey is voluntary and the feedback you give will be used to guide the student in further experiences. If you have any concerns about the student’s behaviour we would appreciate knowing that as soon as possible (see staff contact details on the back of this form). The feedback that you give in the online survey at the end will be taken into account when deciding if the student’s clinical performance is satisfactory or not.

Contact Staff within the Health Service (student to insert details)
Name of Hospital:

Name of Local Midwifery Facilitator:

Contact staff at Southern Cross University Midwifery Professional Experience Leader
Phone: 0755893235
Email: midwiferypel@scu.edu.au

Are you Pregnant?
Would you like to help a student midwife learn how to support/assist women to have the kind of birth and early parenting experience they want?
Before you answer these questions you might have some of your own. Here are some Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.

What is midwifery?
Midwifery is based on a partnership between the woman and midwife. The focus of the partnership is that the midwife cares for and supports the woman who is having a baby. A partnership implies two equal people who are both enriched by the relationship.
We acknowledge that each person in the relationship is affected by their own background and bring with them their individual life histories and cultural attitudes, values and beliefs. Within the relationship the midwife strives to ensure that your attitudes, values and beliefs are respected.

What is a midwife?
A registered midwife gives women the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period. They conduct births under their own responsibility and provide care for the newborn and infant.

Who are the students?
A midwifery student is someone who is undertaking a three-year Bachelor degree in Midwifery in order to be registered to practise as a midwife. They have had criminal record checks and have signed confidentiality agreements.

What does the student want?
They want to learn how to provide one-to-one midwifery care once they are registered midwives. In order to do that they would like to meet and get to know you (and other women like you). They would like to meet you four or more times during pregnancy. The student would like to follow you throughout your childbearing experience. They would like to experience the pregnancy and birth through your eyes. Ideally the student would like to attend your birth.

When you are being cared for by a registered health professional, the student may participate directly in your care under the supervision of a registered midwife or doctor. Students would visit you in hospital after the baby is born and maintain contact by phone or face-to-face after you have gone home. The relationship would be expected to end about six weeks after you give birth.

The student would draw on your experience in order to demonstrate what they have learned but they will do that in a way that protects your privacy. Your name and any identifying details will be changed.

Where would we meet?
The meeting places could be at the hospital, at your scheduled appointment with your private doctor (if you both agree) or in some other agreed public area where the two of you can talk and get to know each other. If you attend preparation for childbirth classes or groups we would encourage the student to attend with you. Students would only visit your home if they are accompanied by your registered midwife or child health nurse.

What will this feel like?
The student will relate to you in a way that should feel comfortable and supportive. The student will have to maintain professional boundaries so although they will let you get to know them as people it should always be clear that you are the focus of their interest and concern. Students are bound by a code of professional and ethical conduct and you can complain about them if at any time you feel they have not maintained the highest ethical standards.

We provide an evaluation form for you to complete at any time during your time with the student but we would particularly like you to complete it towards the end of your time together after the baby is born.

Consent to link with a Student Midwife for a Continuity of Care Experience
I have read the information sheet provided and I agree to allow a student to follow me on my pregnancy journey. I understand that the student may come to the labour and birth as long as I give permission at the time.

Woman's name: ___________________________________________ __/__/___

__________________________________________ __/__/___
Signature Date

Ph: __________________________________________________________

Email: ________________________________________________________

Approximately what date is your baby due? __/__/___

Midwife’s name: _____________________________________________

__________________________________________ __/__/___
Signature Date

Student’s name: _____________________________________________

__________________________________________ __/__/___
Signature Date