Birthing on Country services and facilities in Brisbane & Nowra: impact for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families

Increasing term births will reduce child deaths

4/5 child deaths (<5 years) occur in babies <1

1/3 babies who die at birth or before 1 month of age because they were preterm

Preterm birth <37 weeks

[Graph showing preterm birth rates for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous populations from 2008 to 2017]

Preterm birth INCREASES the RISKS

Childhood (0-5 years)
- Brain injury
- Vision & hearing loss
- Learning challenges

Adulthood
- Asthma
- Diabetes
- High blood pressure

Costs to the family, community and health care services

Birthing on Country is community-driven innovative national solution to Closing the Gap.

It will increase life expectancy and quality of life through a reduction in preterm birth, low birth weight, child and maternal morbidity and mortality. Cost saving will result from improved health outcomes e.g. a single episode of neonatal nursery care for a preterm baby costs $52,984 (range $3,591 - $297,567). Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) will work in partnership with mainstream services to progress Birthing on Country. Gold-standard midwifery continuity of care will be provided to all women using the National Guidelines for Consultation and Referral with medical practitioners. Those with normal risk pregnancies birth in the standalone Birth Centre that is networked into the closest maternity hospital, where women with complex care needs will birth with their known midwife providing their clinical care. We need Government investment.

Funding

ACCHO Facility $20 M total
One-off capital investment $10M @ each site
Community Hub, Transitional Housing, Parenting Centre and Birth Centre

ACCHO Service $28 M total
$2M annual operation for 7 years @ each site until sustainable
Indigenous workforce, integrated strengths-based well-being programs alongside 24/7 midwifery continuity of carer, to provide culturally and clinically exceptional care

Advocacy

To make minor amendments to private health facility licensing legislation in NSW & QLD

To waive fees if women need to transfer from the birth centre to the networked public hospital

To obtain affordable professional indemnity insurance for ACCHO employed midwives
**Birthing on Country Logic Model**

**Inputs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operational funding at each site</th>
<th>Capital works funding at each site</th>
<th>NHMRC research grant</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Establish partnerships
ACCHO collaborate with key stakeholders | Develop services
ACCHO employed and insured midwives provide continuity of care with family well-being workers | Develop facilities
ACCHO owned, maternity hub + licensed Level 2 birth centres |
| Develop programs
strengths-based social and emotional well-being programs | Develop career pathways | Monitor cultural safety |

**Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indigenous-governed maternity service and facility</th>
<th>Strengths-based, holistic programs integrated into maternal infant health service</th>
<th>Pathways for midwifery and nursing higher education for Aboriginal students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Culturally and clinically safe, accessible and cost-effective</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cultural safety package for non-Indigenous staff</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tools to measure cultural safety</td>
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</tbody>
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**Outputs**

- ▲ Healthy mothers and babies
- ▲ Health engagement (early and sufficient maternity care)
- ▼ Risks (e.g. smoking, infections)
- ▼ Babies born too soon (preterm)
- ▼ Babies born too small (low birth weight)
- ▲ Normal births
- ▼ Cost to families and government

- ▲ Optimal nutrition mums and bubs (e.g. breastfeeding)
- ▲ Emotional resilience
- ▲ Family preservation and restoration
- ▲ Parental effectiveness
- ▼ Stress in pregnancy and homelessness
- ▼ Infant hospitalisations
- ▼ Child removals

- ▲ Indigenous health workforce
- ▲ Indigenous students
- ▲ Indigenous degree graduates
- ▲ Indigenous research workforce
- ▲ Cultural Safety
- ▼ Racism and discrimination

**Outcomes**

**Impact**

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