

Continuity of Care Experience Program

...giving midwifery students the opportunity to learn about having a baby from the woman's perspective, from pregnancy to new motherhood.



Image: Acknowledgement to Amanda Tuohill, PGDip Mid student Bendigo campus 2012, for this original sketch.

Thank you for taking the time to read this brochure. It will provide you with information about the Continuity of Care Experience (CoCE) program at La Trobe University.

Continuity of Care Experiences are an important part of our midwifery education programs. These experiences provide students with the opportunity to learn about the childbearing experience from the woman's perspective, from pregnancy through to new motherhood.

WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF ME?

If you participate in this program, a midwifery student will follow you through your pregnancy, birth (you can choose if the student attends your birth) and post birth experience for up to 6 weeks. During this time the student will see you approximately six times. The meetings will generally take place at the time of your scheduled pregnancy visits, during the time you spend in hospital, when the midwife visits you at home after you have given birth, or when you attend your 6 week postnatal appointment.

The CoC relationship with the student will conclude at the end of the 6 week postnatal period.

Some of the things the student will talk to you about are:

- your experiences of pregnancy, birth and new motherhood
- your perspective of the maternity care you receive

One of the main aims is for the student to develop a professional relationship with you that will enable the student to listen to you and observe the decisions you will make during your pregnancy birth and early parenting.

IF YOU AGREE TO PARTICIPATE...

The CoCE program will enable you to share your pregnancy journey with a midwifery student. The student will be undertaking either the Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery or will be a registered nurse undertaking the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery at La Trobe University.

The midwifery student will ask you to sign a consent form. This will be kept in a confidential and secure place at the University. The student will give you their University email address and you will be able to make contact between meetings.

Where possible, the midwifery student will participate in providing care to you that is appropriate to their level of skills and knowledge. There may be times that students cannot provide direct care, and in these instances, they will be there as an observer and/or to provide support.

Students and the University will treat all information and discussions that arise during the CoCE confidentially. Any notes or records the student keeps will not include your identity. You may withdraw your consent at any time; we just ask that you let the student know. You can do this by emailing the student.

WHO WILL SUPPORT THE STUDENTS?

The midwifery course and subject coordinators at La Trobe University (Bundoora and Bendigo campuses) oversee the CoCE program. All direct care provided by the student will be supervised by midwives and/or other health professionals in the clinical setting.

HOW DO I BECOME INVOLVED?

If you would like to participate in the La Trobe University CoCE program, please contact one of the following midwifery course coordinators/academics, or liaise with the student directly.

Melbourne

Sharon Mumford (03) 9479 6681
(Course Coordinator BNBM) s.mumford@latrobe.edu.au

Stefanie Zugna (03) 9479 5937
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Bendigo

Fiona Faulks (03) 5444 7147
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