



More options for mothers-to-be

An innovative consumer-driven new model of care at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) is providing women on Brisbane's north side with continuity of care throughout their pregnancy and birth, with a personal midwife.

Women who are booked to give birth at RBWH have the option of being admitted as a private patient to be cared for by their chosen midwife for labour and birth, as well as their antenatal and postnatal care. RBWH currently has eight Eligible Private Practice Midwives (EPPMs) accredited with full visiting access.

Support is provided to EPPMs should they need to consult or refer during the pregnancy, and provide back-up when the woman present is in labour.

The RBWH has a thorough credentialing process for EPPMs, and Consultation and Referral Guidelines to ensure any complications arising during pregnancy are referred to RBWH for specialist treatment.

The first phase of the model of care was implemented at RBWH in 2013, and in November 2014, the model expanded

to include labour and birth care by the private midwife as a private patient.

Helen Siggers was the first woman to give birth at RBWH under the new private midwife arrangements.

Helen said working with her chosen midwife, Michelle from My Midwives, throughout the preparation for birth, delivery and post natal care felt very natural.

"I feel those six months leading up to the birth were absolutely crucial. Michelle got to know my partner Doug and I, our strengths, weaknesses, dreams, fears, and, most importantly, we created a birth plan together to achieve the best possible outcome," Helen said.

"During labour Michelle was nothing but supportive. She kept my birth suite calm and peaceful and was by my side for every surge," she said.



4,362
births at RBWH
in 2014–15

{ more than half the total babies
born across MNHHS per year }

“Midwifery-led care enables women to develop a relaxed and trusting professional relationship with the same group of midwives throughout their pregnancy, birth and the postnatal period.”

Opposite: Helen Siggers and partner Doug Raisin, baby Brooklyn and midwife Michelle Devenish.