

MATERNITY SERVICES PROGRAM



VHA Rural Health Conference
Creswick

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Department of Human Services Victoria

POLICY DRIVERS

- ❖ Keeping birth normal
- ❖ Providing options in models of care
- ❖ Preserving tertiary capacity
- ❖ Supporting safety and quality of the maternity care system
- ❖ Managing unanticipated demand
- ❖ Addressing workforce shortages
- ❖ Maximising Commonwealth interest in maternity service provision



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POLICY RESPONSES

- ❖ Maternity Growth funding for inpatient and postnatal services
- ❖ Rural Maternity Initiative & associated grants
- ❖ Establishment and ongoing support for PERS
- ❖ Establishment of Maternity & Newborn Clinical Network
- ❖ Rural Birthing Framework informing Maternity & Neonatal Capability Framework
- ❖ Annual publication of Maternity Performance indicator report
- ❖ Updating GP shared care protocols



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CHALLENGES FOR RURAL MATERNITY SERVICES

- ❖ Providing access to quality maternity services
- ❖ Projecting and managing fluctuating demand
- ❖ Workforce recruitment and retention
- ❖ Providing leadership and education to strengthen capacity of rural maternity services



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