

# Midwifery Group Practice (MGP) Remote Communities CAHS Factsheet

## How it works:

- The Alice Springs Hospital (ASH) MGP cares for women residing in Alice Springs and Remote communities.
- There are currently 9 midwives who are split into three smaller teams. These smaller groups work with each other to provide a support and backup system, for when the midwives are on days off, unexpected leave, professional development or annual leave.
- The ASH MGP is an 'all inclusive' model of care that incorporates all Urban and Remote women of Central Australia as space on the program allows.
- The primary midwives are allocated referred and work closely with other services and health professionals to provide individualised care. We use the word "Primary" carer within our practice to distinguish between the primary and the associate midwife. We do however acknowledge that women from remote communities are also cared for by midwives and nurses who are based within the community.
- Referrals are received at any time. Women are able to be booked onto the program from 8-10 weeks onward.
- Women who are booked onto the program have the option to meet their allocated midwife when they come to town. This may be at the ultrasound scan; their allocated midwife will be very happy to meet her at the appointment so she can introduce herself and start to form a relationship with the woman. If the woman has not come to town she will meet her allocated midwife at 'sit down'.
- During the antenatal period the MGP midwife will link up with the Remote Area Midwife / Remote Area Nurse / Remote Outreach Midwife who is caring for the woman, to establish good communication pathways that will help with care coordination.
- The midwives in the practice work with different computer systems but do have access to the Primary Care Information System (PCIS). The midwives will work out which communication system will be best per individual community i.e. fax, email, post etc.
- The midwives use the "National Midwifery Guidelines for Consultation and Referral" to assist them in planning care and referring when needed. It is often thought that the remote women need to see a doctor for their initial appointment, but if they are on the MGP program they will ensure that the women are seen by the appropriate health professional.
- The MGP midwives care for the women during the antenatal period during 'sit down', will be there at the birth and continue to provide care while they are in town after the baby is born.
- Once the client is on the program they stay on it, even if they develop complexities in their pregnancy.

## How to book a woman into MGP

- You can phone the clinic on 08 8951 7067 and speak with the receptionist
- Fill in the MGP referral form and fax it to 08 8951 7838. **Please note that an Estimated Date of Birth (EDB) is needed to be able to place a woman onto the program**

### Contact Details

**Practice Manager**  
08 8951 7095

**Receptionist:**  
08 8951 7067

**Fax**  
08 8951 7838