

# HealthMatters

Sydney - it's *your* local health district

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Midwife Kel Hawthorn, mother Georgia Lonergan (holding baby) and midwives Megan Williams, Stacey Lamont and Kerrie Adams.

## RPA's midwifery group celebrates birth of 100th baby

**RPA's Midwifery Group Practice at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital has celebrated the delivery of its 100th baby since starting in September last year.**

The Midwifery Group Practice is run by four midwives who manage the pregnancies of the same group of women throughout their pregnancy and labour.

"This model of care is ideal in that each woman is allocated their own midwife from the outset – commencing with the provision of antenatal care, through to the labour, and then to the delivery of postnatal care in the form of home visits," Sydney Local Health Direct Clinical Manager, Women's Health, Karen Redrup said.

"This continuity of care model has been proven to greatly improve both the safety and satisfaction with care, demonstrated by the low level of medical interventions required. Women benefit from the emotional and educational support of a known carer who follows them through their journey into motherhood," Ms Redrup said.

Midwife Kel Hawthorn said one of the strengths of the program was the ability for midwives to develop relationships with women while maintaining the delivery of a professional service.

"I feel that we are the human face of the hospital, and that many women appreciate the opportunity to form

relationships with their midwives during such an important period in their lives," Miss Hawthorn said.

The midwives work closely with an obstetrician so clients who develop any problems are promptly referred for appropriate investigation and management.

Since July this year the Midwifery Group Practice has opened clinics at Croydon Health Centre, with plans to extend to Marrickville Health Centre soon.

"This enables women to access high quality care close to their homes in a more intimate and more accessible environment than attending a large hospital," Ms Redrup said.