

# COUNTRY HEALTH SA MID NORTH CLUSTER TRANSITION TO PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE PROGRAM RM 2011

The Mid North community is situated to the north of Adelaide the capital of South Australia, an approximate two and a half to three hours drive. The Mid North health units service a population of approximately 30,000 with 2,440 children aged 0 to 5 years (ABS Census 2001). The Flinders Ranges, Clare Valley and Yorke Peninsula are within close distance. Numerous sporting, cultural and art events are hosted throughout the area. A range of clubs, ovals, racetracks and sporting complexes ensures the districts sports person are well catered for with almost every sport offered. A regional shopping centre, fairs and fresh produce markets are held across the cluster.

The program is designed to expose the graduate midwife to the roles and responsibilities of the registered midwife in a rural acute care context. The program provides graduates with supported experiences to further integrate learnt professional knowledge and skills to provide proficient and safe continuity of woman centred care that is inclusive of their baby and families before, during pregnancy, birth and early parenting. Exploration and clarification of evidence-based midwifery practice underpinned by best practice principles and shared care will be emphasised during the program.

The Transition Program is conducted over a flexible 12 month full-time period (0.84 FTE part-time negotiable). The program is co-ordinated through the CHSA: Port Pirie Regional Health Service with practice exposure in the antenatal clinic, intra and postpartum midwifery care, operating theatre suite, domiciliary midwife role and a level 2 nursery. Where practicable an opportunity to be exposed to team midwifery will be facilitated. The midwife works closely with the resident obstetrician, visiting paediatrician, midwives, general practitioners, health team and inter-agencies. The obstetric service has an average birth rate of 180 deliveries per year that are provided in a combined 19 bed obstetric and surgical unit with 2 birthing suites therefore dual RN/RM qualification is preferred due to the complexity of the unit. Support to the beginning midwife is provided through effective preceptorship and mentorship. Following successful completion of the program the registered midwife would be considered for continued employment dependant on available hours within the nursing midwifery compliment.

The health units within the Mid North Cluster are: Mid North Health – Booleroo, Jamestown, Orroroo, Peterborough; Port Broughton District Hospital and Health Service; Port Pirie Regional Health Service; Southern Flinders Health – Crystal Brook and Laura. The communities are well served by general practitioners, resident and visiting specialists and a community and allied health service, as well as general medical, surgical, obstetric and aged care facilities and programs. The leadership across the cluster is dynamic and progressive and the health units boast modern facilities that provide a safe supportive learning environment.

More specifically the acute services include:

- Surgical, Medical, High Dependency and Paediatric
- Obstetric that includes antenatal midwife, domiciliary midwife and team midwifery
- Accident and Emergency
- Aged care and Respite
- Operating Theatre
- Cancer Care that includes chemotherapy and palliative care

A multiple range of allied health services are offered to the community that include the following disciplines, although not exhaustive.

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|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Podiatry             | Social Work      | Radiology          |
| Physiotherapy        | Speech Pathology | Women's Health     |
| Palliative Care      | Dietetics        | Diabetes Education |
| Occupational Therapy | Mental Health    | Aboriginal Health  |

Check out allied health services at the following website [www.hsfinder.sa.gov.au](http://www.hsfinder.sa.gov.au) (Human Services Finder for Port Pirie).

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