



Department of Health
Government of **Western Australia**
South Metropolitan Area Health Service

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Carly: Canning Times.

Fremantle Hospital nurse wins scholarship

Fremantle Hospital Theatre Recovery Nurse Libby Stearne has won a study scholarship to help her finance her second year of postgraduate study in her quest to qualify as a midwife.

The young Willetton mother of two was granted \$1,600 to offset her study costs for the units she is completing this year as part of a \$1.1 million package offered to WA nurses by the State Government. It is the second grant Libby has been afforded. She was given \$800 last year for her first year units.

Libby has worked at Fremantle Hospital for 14 years in surgical wards and in the recovery area of theatres but her personal experience of becoming a mother twice in the last three years influenced her latest career direction.

"I would like to work at Kaleeya Hospital when I am qualified as a midwife," she said.

"The whole experience of motherhood from conception, through pregnancy and birth has influenced me to work in this area. I am also an advocate of the public hospital system which has fantastic services for our patients.

"The grant makes a huge difference to me financially and will mean that I only have to purchase my text books now," she said.

"I am very grateful to have been awarded financial assistance as I work part time and my study is now achievable because of it."

Libby will study full time from July for a year to complete her studies in a midwifery setting.

She was one of 459 postgraduate and undergraduate nurses across WA to be awarded a scholarship.

Health Minister Jim McGinty said the Nursing and Midwifery Scholarship Support Scheme established in 1980, was just one of the strategies being used to attract and retain nursing and midwifery staff.

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