



Department of Health
North Metropolitan Area Health Service

Women and Newborn Health Service
King Edward Memorial Hospital

Media Release

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Southern suburb mums-to-be chose to birth locally

In the past year 260 new mothers living in Bentley and surrounding suburbs have given birth closer to home, thanks to an antenatal transfers program devised by Women and Newborn Health Service and Bentley Health Service (BHS).

The Health Services have been working together since March 2007 to offer women with healthy, low-risk pregnancies and referred by their GP to King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) the option to receive midwifery-led care at BHS instead.

Program coordinator at KEMH Tracy Martin said the program was initiated by BHS and has had a terrific outcome for all parties.

"Women find it more convenient to attend antenatal appointments closer to home and they can have a longer hospital stay after the birth than is possible at KEMH," she said

"The increase in births at BHS has [strengthened the current services provided by the hospital](#), and at KEMH with less low-risk births to manage, staff can concentrate on providing a tertiary service to women who need it."

Cannington resident Larrisa O'Dea opted to receive care at BHS for the birth of her baby Devin in November last year.

"When I saw my GP I asked to go to KEMH as that is where I thought everyone had their babies but I'm really pleased I was given the option to go to Bentley. It is only five minutes away from our home and is quite modern on the inside. The midwives who looked after me were fantastic. I stayed for four days and was encouraged to stay longer if I needed to. My husband loved how close it was to our home when he was visiting us," she said.

The antenatal transfer program has been so successful that KEMH is now running the same program in conjunction with Joondalup Health Campus and Osborne Park Hospital.

Ends

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