



the women's
the royal women's hospital
victoria australia

GP News

Connecting healthcare for the benefit of patients

Assisted Reproductive Treatment (ART) review paves way for equitable IVF access, says the Women's



The Royal Women's Hospital welcomes the latest moves by the Victorian Government to end discriminatory regulations restricting some people from accessing assisted reproductive treatment (ART) in Victoria.

In response to these announced changes, and [the final ART report](#) released on July 3, Chief Executive of the Women's Dr Sue Matthews said she looks forward to seeing policy changes that improve access, affordability and quality of care for every person seeking these services.

"We welcome the report's recognition that current ART regulation is not fit-for-purpose and are pleased to be playing our role in creating equitable access to IVF," Dr Matthews said.

[Read more on the Women's website.](#)

Increasing participation in Shared Maternity Care



A recent survey of women receiving their pregnancy care at the Women's has revealed that less than half knew about Shared Maternity Care.

Shared Maternity Care, enables healthy women with a normal pregnancy to be cared for by a local GP or midwife affiliated with the Women's. Shared care affiliates and hospital-based doctors and midwives act as a team in the provision of a woman's antenatal care.

Survey participants who chose Shared Maternity Care for their pregnancy, reported excellent levels of satisfaction, continuity of carer and convenience.

In response to this feedback, the Women's is taking steps to increase awareness of Shared Maternity Care, by providing more information to women about this trusted model of care early in pregnancy.

In the first instance, the Women's will include a dedicated leaflet about Shared Maternity Care in every booking acceptance letter we send to women.

We will also update our website, to make it easier for women to find information about Shared Maternity Care, including details of Shared Maternity Care Affiliates.

We know that a woman's GP is usually the first port of call in the early stages of pregnancy. We encourage you to keep promoting shared care and would be very happy to supply you with copies of this leaflet for you to discuss with women and have in your waiting room.

To be sent copies, please email the [shared care team](#) at the Women's and let us know how many leaflets you would like.

We look forward to providing you with further updates on our activities in coming months.

Read more about [Shared Maternity Care](#)

**Recredentialing as shared maternity care affiliate
Triennium 1, January 2020 – 31 December 2022**

It is preferable that women attend the African Women's Clinic before pregnancy. It is not uncommon for married women to present once they realise they are unable to have intercourse due to their infibulation. The team also care for infibulated pregnant women who have not had penetrative intercourse.

For many people, including some health professionals, FGM is a very difficult topic. However, to avoid the potential for serious harm to mother and baby, it's important that health professionals are informed and feel comfortable discussing the topic with their patients.

The Women's is able to offer the deinfibulation procedure during pregnancy up to 34 weeks gestation. The team can also refer women to other services at the Women's if required, including mental health, physiotherapy, gynaecology, and sexual counselling services.

FARREP workers, who are non-medical staff, have an open door policy and women are able to "call in" for a chat or phone call to discuss issues around FGM. FARREP can also support women at their clinic appointments if needed.

If you would like someone from the African Women's Clinic to visit your practice and explain our services or talk about FGM, please contact [the FARREP team](#) or call 8345 3058

Please see [the African Women's Clinic web page](#) for more information.

Influenza and Pertussis vaccination in pregnancy



The Department of Health has launched a campaign to promote pertussis and influenza vaccination to pregnant women.

The most important factor associated with increasing uptake of influenza and pertussis vaccination during pregnancy is a healthcare provider recommendation.

As part of routine antenatal care, please take the opportunity to speak to your pregnant patients and their partners about the importance of getting vaccinated against influenza and pertussis during pregnancy.

Please note that the evidence around the timing of pertussis vaccination in pregnancy has recently been reviewed. The pertussis-containing vaccine is now recommended as a single dose between 20 and 32 weeks in each pregnancy. This includes pregnancies that are closely spaced to provide maximal protection to each infant. This advice is reflected in the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

Continuing professional development

- **45th Annual Scientific meeting ASPOG 2019**

The theme of the 45th Annual Scientific meeting of the Australian Society for Psychosocial Obstetrics & Gynaecology (ASPOG) is 'Across the life cycle'. The program of talks and discussions on diverse clinical and psychosocial aspects of women's health will be delivered by experts from a variety of health disciplines.

[More information.](#)

Dates: **Thursday 1st, Friday 2nd, Saturday 3rd August**

Venue: The Royal Women's Hospital, 20 Flemington Road, Parkville VIC

- **PCOS and Endometriosis**

Endometriosis, pelvic pain, dysmenorrhoea and Infertility: a practical guide for GPs in assessing, investigating, managing and referring adolescents and women.

Presenters: Dr Martin Healey, Dr Karin Jones, Dr Claudia Cheng and Dr Melissa Cameron

Date: **Tuesday 6th August**

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm (Registration 5.30pm)

Venue: The Royal Women's Hospital, 20 Flemington Road, Parkville VIC

[Register online](#)

- **Annual Shared Maternity Care workshop**

Date: **Saturday 24th August**

Venue: Mercy Hospital for Women, Heidelberg

Shared Maternity Care Affiliates will receive an email in about a month. It is not possible to register before this.

Contact

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The Women's Abortion and Contraception service
professional line (03) 8345 3061 (not for use by
women needing the service).

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