

In this edition of GP News, you'll find a wealth of information including referral advice, resources for GPs and training opportunities.

If you have any feedback or questions, please [email us](#).



Re-credentialing as a Shared Maternity Care Affiliate

Applications **OVERDUE**

A significant number of GPs are yet to be re-credentialed at the Women's, Mercy Health, Northern Health or Western Health, for the 2023-2025 triennium. Please ensure you have taken all steps to be re-credentialed by next Monday (**6 March 2023**).

To be re-credentialed, email Dr Ines Rio, Head of the Women's GP Liaison Unit, directly at ines.rio@thewomens.org.au and provide in a single PDF attachment:

- Your medical indemnity
- Your signed [Agreement](#)
- Evidence of at least 5 hours of pregnancy-related Continuing Professional Development (CPD) you undertook in the 2020-2022 triennium (if you are a GP. If you are an obstetrician, this is not required).

If you have not sent in documentation by 6 March 2023, your credentialing will expire.

All Affiliates who have applied for re-credentialing will be notified of the outcome of their re-credentialing by 30 April 2023. This date has been extended from 28 February, due to late applications. All Affiliates who have sent in their documentation have had their credentialing extended until then.

In relation to CPD, we have compiled a [database](#) of pregnancy-related online education you can undertake and the respective pregnancy-related education hours you will earn.

Our Shared Care workshops, held in September and October 2022, were recorded and are available for you to watch on our [GP continuing professional development](#) webpage. Once you have completed any or both of these, please record your completion via your RACGP learning portal

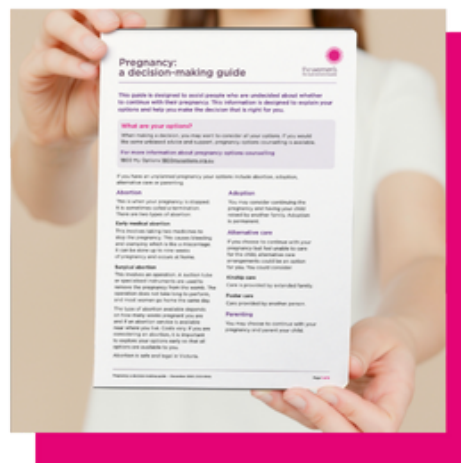
Health information to support you and your patients

Our website includes a range of [women's health information](#).

A recent addition to our fact sheet collection is [Pregnancy: a decision-making guide](#). This decision-making tool is designed to assist those who are undecided about whether to continue with their pregnancy.

It explains their options and includes questions to consider in the decision-making process. It's a useful tool for clinicians and patients to work through.

Our [fact sheet section](#) includes over 230 fact sheets on a range of women's health issues. Many of these have been translated.



Public fertility service

We continue to receive a high number of referrals from GPs and specialists for Victoria's new Public Fertility Service, announced by the Victorian Government in October 2022.

This publicly-funded service is available to all Victorian residents – including same-sex and other couples and single people with a donor.

To be eligible for this service:

- the patient must be a Victorian resident and holder of a Medicare card
- the egg to be fertilised (either patient's own or from a donor) must be no older than 42 years at time of treatment. This means that women using their own eggs must be 42 or less at time of egg collection.

We have recently updated information on our website and in the referral form to:

- give patients an estimated timeframe. Here is a link to the timeframe provided to prospective patients on our website – [Public fertility service referral timeline](#)
- in the updated referral form, we are asking that GPs and specialists tick yes or no to whether a patient is 'seeking donor egg or donor sperm services'. This will enable us to better triage referrals.

If you are referring a patient to our public fertility service, your referral must include the results of several tests and investigations. To find out more, visit our [Public Fertility Service](#) webpage.

Information is also available on [HealthPathways Melbourne](#) under Sub-fertility.



Sandringham Hospital - now managed by Monash Health

Management of Sandringham Hospital's maternity, gynaecology and neonatal services was transferred to Monash Health, on 6 February 2023.

All referrals for care at Sandringham Hospital must now be made via Monash Health's [HealthLink eReferral system](#).

Referring a maternity patient to Sandringham Hospital

- The option for selecting Sandringham as the preferred site is unfortunately not yet available on Monash Health's eReferral system. If your patient prefers to have care at Sandringham Hospital, please request this in the 'Additional Information' section of the form, as highlighted here:

- Please note: Monash Health does not accept referrals that are sent in via fax or insecure email.
- If you need support with making a referral, please call Monash Health's referral management team on **1300 342 273** (Select option '6' for support using HealthLink).
- If you are not able to reach them on the phone, contact their Maternity Bookings team via email: maternity.bookings@monashhealth.org

Pathology and Imaging results

- To assist hospital staff in accessing results promptly, please email a copy of all relevant results via HealthLink (choose 'Amend/Update previously sent referral' and add results via Attachments/Reports).

Shared Maternity Care

If you are a Shared Maternity Care Affiliate with the Women's and wish to continue to provide shared care at Sandringham Hospital:

- Please re-credential with Monash Health by **31 March 2023**. You can use this form on [Monash Health Women's](#) website. If you are credentialed with the Women's as a Shared Maternity Care Affiliate, you are welcome to put the Women's GP Liaison Unit down as a referee.

Key Contacts for Sandringham Hospital	
Switchboard	P: 9076 1000
Maternity Clinic	P: 9594 7031
Pregnancy Assessment/Birth Suite	P: 9076 1245
Maternity Ward	P: 9076 1232 P: 9076 1234
Drug Information Centre	P: 9594 2361

For Monash Health Women's service information for all Monash Health sites, see:

[Monash Women's website](#)

[Maternity Key Contacts](#)

For GP support:

Contact Dr Rebecca Fradkin at MaternityGPLiaison@monashhealth.org (please note Dr Fradkin has part time hours at this service).

National Women's Health Advisory Council

The Women's CEO, Professor Sue Matthews is one of 30 experts from around Australia appointed to the new National Women's Health Advisory Council.

The Council's focus will be:

- health equity in healthcare and services
- health literacy for women in priority populations
- strengthening and diversifying medical research
- health workforce training and education.



To find out more about the Council's purpose, visit [National Women's Health Advisory Council](#).

To find out what our CEO hopes this Council will achieve, see: [Professor Sue Matthews appointed to the National Women's Health Advisory Council](#).

**Ovarian cancer -
preventative surgery**



In the past 10 years, the Women's has assisted 440 women by performing preventative surgery to remove their risk of ovarian cancer.

These women chose to have their ovaries and fallopian tubes removed after discovering they had a genetic disposition to ovarian cancer – the most deadly of all female cancers.

To find out more about this work, you can:

- Read this story in [The Age](#)
- View ovarian cancer resources on [the Women's website](#).

A sleep intervention that's saving lives

A Pepi-pod looks like a basic plastic tub. But this safe sleep intervention has proven to be incredibly effective at helping babies survive their infancy.

In 2019, Pepi-pods were introduced at the Women's, for babies and their mothers being supported in our Women's Alcohol and Drug Service (WADS).

Prior to that, babies born in to WADS families who had left the hospital were dying of SIDS at a rate 300 times higher than the general population.

Since the introduction of the program, there have been no SIDS deaths among WADS babies.

Read more: [A sleep intervention that's saving lives](#)



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Breast Cancer Treatment Information Session: Webinar

Date: Wednesday 1 March 2023
5:30pm – 6.30pm

Cost: Free



Over the past five years a significant number of new drugs have been introduced to treat breast cancer. Many patients, even with metastatic breast cancer, can remain on the same treatment for years.

This webinar features expert speakers with Q&A sessions aimed at updating GPs about new breast cancer drugs: how these work, the main side effects, and the signs and symptoms of these effects that you

(and your patient) need to look out for.

The event aims to increase GPs' knowledge and understanding of current treatment options and best practices. Additionally, the event aims to improve the communication and collaboration between GPs and specialists to ensure the best outcomes for patients with breast cancer.

Contact us

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P: (03) 8345 2064
E: gp.liaison@thewomens.org.au

Fast Fax Referral
F: (03) 8345 3036

GP Quick Access Number
P: (03) 8345 2058

Shared Maternity Care Coordinator
P: (03) 8345 2129
E: shared.care@thewomens.org.au

The Women's Switchboard
P: (03) 8345 2000

The Women's Abortion & Contraception Service
P: [\(03\) 8345 2832](tel:(03)83452832) (professional line only – not for use by women needing the service)



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You are receiving this email because you have subscribed to receive updates from the Women's GP Liaison Unit. [Unsubscribe](#)

The Royal Women's Hospital acknowledges and pays respect to the peoples of the Kulin Nations, the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which our hospital stands.

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