



the women's
the royal women's hospital

ABN 62 787 822 077

Locked Bag 300
Cnr Grattan St & Flemington Rd
Parkville VIC 3052 Australia

Tel +61 3 8345 2000
www.thewomens.org.au

Fact Sheet: Right care, right place, right time

Over the past three years, the number of women having a baby in metropolitan Melbourne has risen by 15.5%. During the same period, the number of women having a baby at the Royal Women's Hospital has increased by 24.1% from 5,118 to 6,360.

Last year, the Victorian State Government announced a range of measures to address this unexpected increase in demand to ensure all women can access the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

These initiatives aimed to help the three specialist maternity hospitals, the Women's, Monash Medical Centre and Mercy Hospital for Women, to fulfil their specialist role by prioritising the care of complex and high-risk pregnancies.

The majority of pregnancies and births do not require tertiary care and can be managed at a local maternity hospital. To ensure *all* women can access the level of maternity care they require, women experiencing low risk pregnancies should attend their nearest maternity hospital for their pregnancy care.

Since the opening of the new Royal Women's Hospital in July, we have experienced a 35% increase in pregnancy booking inquiries. The hospital has now formalised our maternity booking advice to ensure priority access for:

- All women who live within the Women's local area; and
- Women whose pregnancies require specialist tertiary care

Women who live outside the Women's local area, who do not require tertiary level care, should be referred to their nearest maternity hospital for their pregnancy care.

If at any time a woman's pregnancy becomes complicated, or is considered to be high risk, she can be referred by her local maternity hospital to one of the state's three specialist hospitals - the Women's, Mercy Hospital for Women or Monash Medical Centre.

---end---

If you are uncertain if your patient lives within the Women's local area, please call our triage team on (03) 8345 2191 or our GP Shared Care office on (03) 8345 2129 prior to making a referral.

If your patient needs further information about our pregnancy booking processes, she can contact the Royal Women's Hospital Consumer Advocate on (03) 8345 2290.

For clinical queries contact the Women's GP Liaison Officer on (03) 8345 2064 or email ines.rio@thewomens.org.au