

Media Release

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Midwives ready for first birth in the revamped Mackay Birth Centre

The Mackay Birth Centre is back 'home' with the first baby expected to be born at the refurbished and expanded facility Friday 17th April.

Director of Midwifery Rymer Tabulo said the Birth Centre midwives were excited to be back in the old building after two years of providing the service in the main hospital.

The Birth Centre is located near the river in a separate house beside the Women's Health Unit.

Ms Tabulo said the expansion has more than doubled the floor space and provided more comfort for women, families and staff.

The Birth Centre model of care has continued to operate during the renovation to provide women with an alternative to the usual hospital birthing experience.

The expansion and refurbishment was part of the \$408 million Mackay Base Hospital redevelopment and is in the same style to keep the character of the existing house.

About 140 women are cared for by the Midwives working within the Birth Centre. Each women accepted into the Birth Centre model of Care will have her care provided during the pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal period by a known midwife.

Each home-like birthing room is large enough for a queen size bed, a bench, hand-washing facilities, storage for bean bags and birthing mats, a couch/reclining arm chair, floor space for birthing, a deep bath and access to veranda.

Ms Tabulo said there were also dedicated rooms for consulting, administration, linen and equipment storage.

The Birth Centre is for healthy low risk women who have no pregnancy complications.

Ms Tabulo said the Birth Centre program gave women greater choice in birthing.

"Women like a known carer through pregnancy, labour, birth and post birth. The feedback is they feel safe and comfortable in a home-like environment.

"The centre is staffed by accredited midwives who provide each woman with a total care program throughout their entire pregnancy including antenatal, birth and postnatal. We're all about providing a normal life event (birth) in a relaxed, homelike environment," she said.

The Birth Centre was the first of its kind in Queensland when it opened in 1994 and since then more than 1800 babies have been birthed at the centre.

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