

The good, the bad and the possible

A public Lecture on the Strategic Directions for the Australian Maternity Services Plan

Public Online Lecture and Expert Panel
24th March 2021 1700 - 1900 hrs [AEDT]

Register for Free: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-good-the-bad-and-the-possible-tickets-137226838167>

Canberra Mothercraft Society and Western Sydney University are proud to support a free public online lecture by Professor Hannah Dahlen AM, followed by an expert panel discussion on the way forward for the Australian Maternity Services plan.

Overview of Event

This public lecture will examine the 2019 COAG Woman-Centred Care: Strategic Directions for Australian Maternity Services plan. It critiques the plan in light of the international evidence, policy documents and interviews with stakeholders. 'The good, the bad and the possible' provides a way forward. Implementing the plan will be at the heart of this lecture and the expert panel discussion.

Presenter: Hannah Dahlen AM



Hannah Dahlen AM is the Professor of Midwifery, Discipline Leader of Midwifery and Associate Dean (Research and Higher Degree Research) in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Western Sydney University. She has been a midwife for 30 years. Hannah has over 200 published journal articles and book chapters and has a strong national and international reputation in maternal health. She is a renowned speaker, public commentator and birth activist. In 2019 Hannah was awarded a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia (General Division) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list and In November 2012 Hannah was named in the Sydney Morning Herald's list of 100 "people who change our city for the better" and named as one of the leading "science and knowledge thinkers" for 2012.

**Expert Panel: Ms Mary Kirk AM, Dr Vijay Roach (RZNZCOG),
Professor Joanne Gray (ACM), Ms Melanie Briggs (Midwife),
Ms Alecia Staines (MCN), Ms Bashi Hazard (HRiC).
More experts to be announced soon.**

Canberra Mothercraft Society (CMS)

Canberra Mothercraft Society (CMS) is a community-based organisation that has provided professional health and social services to families of young children in the ACT and surrounding regions of NSW since 1926. In the early days, it pioneered the introduction of maternal and child health clinics, occasional care centres and home help services. CMS went on to establish and run the Queen Elizabeth II Family Centre (QEII) in Canberra for 56 years until July 2019. Mary Kirk was the Executive Officer and Director of Nursing and Midwifery at QEII for 22 years from 1997.

Expert Panel:

Ms Mary Kirk AM, Midwife and immediate past Vice-President of the International Confederation of Midwives



Mary is the immediate past Director of Nursing and Midwifery and Chief Executive Officer of the Queen Elizabeth II Family Centre in Canberra and immediate past Vice-President of the International Confederation of Midwives. She has vast midwifery experience in clinical, management, educative and research roles in local, national and internal settings. Mary also holds invaluable experience and expertise in health service governance, leadership and professional regulation. She is a feminist who believes it is everyone's right to work in an enabling environment where they are actively supported to reach their full potential in the delivery of reliable evidence-based health care.

Dr Vijay Roach, President of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (RANZCOG)



Vijay is a Visiting Medical Officer in obstetrics and gynaecology in both public and private practice in Sydney. His first role with the College was as Chair of the NSW Training and Accreditation Committee, a position that he held for nine years. He is Chair of the Training and Accreditation Committee. Committed to medical education, Vijay lectures at the University of Sydney. He is the former Chairman of the Gidget Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation promoting the importance of emotional wellbeing among expectant and new parents. Vijay was elected President in 2018 and has previously served three terms on the RANZCOG Board.

Professor Joanne Gray, President of the Australian College of Midwives (ACM)



Professor Joanne Gray is a leading midwifery academic and she has been involved in midwifery education in the higher education sector for many years. Joanne is the current President of the Australian College of Midwives. Joanne's current role is Head, Graduate School of Health at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). Joanne has worked as a midwife in both rural and metropolitan New South Wales and has played a key role in the development and implementation of midwifery curricula, including the first distance education midwifery program for registered nurses (Charles Sturt University, 1990) and the first Bachelor of Midwifery to be offered in NSW (UTS, 2005).

Ms Melanie Briggs, Director of Binjilaanii Maternity Services Pty Ltd, Midwife at Waminda



Melanie Briggs is a mother of two gudjaga's (children) and is a descendant of the Dharawal and Gumbayngirr peoples. She is the Director of the first Aboriginal-led maternity model of care in Australia, also known as Binjilaanii Maternity Services Pty Ltd, and works as a midwife at Waminda South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation in Nowra NSW. Melanie has Co-Chaired the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Birthing on Country Committee, holds memberships with the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM), the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stillbirth Committee, NSW Maternity Services Alliance, Associate Investigator for the National Birthing on Country Centre for Research Excellence with Charles Darwin University and Associate Investigator for Peer Support for Breastfeeding Mothers with University of Wollongong.

Ms Alecia Staines, Director of Maternity Consumer Network



Alecia is the Director of Maternity Consumer Network, mother-of-five, teacher turned maternity reform lobbyist who lives in Noosa, Queensland. She has been involved with the Woman Centred Care- National Maternity Strategy, MBS review of Participating Midwives, Stillbirth Action Plan and sits on various state and national committees as a maternity consumer representative.

Ms Bashi Hazard, Director of Human Rights in Childbirth (HRiC)



Bashi Kumar-Hazard is an Australian competition and consumer rights lawyer, and the Director of Human Rights in Childbirth. In Australia, Bashi has represented families in coronial inquests and hospital midwives pursued by the healthcare regulator. Internationally, she has prepared Amicus briefs and UN human rights submissions on mistreatment in childbirth and women's reproductive rights. Bashi is currently working on a doctorate in Competition Law at the University of Sydney, examining anti-competitive practices in the provision of maternity healthcare in Australia.