

# Inspiring

Behind these smiles are midwives who know the value of good oral health



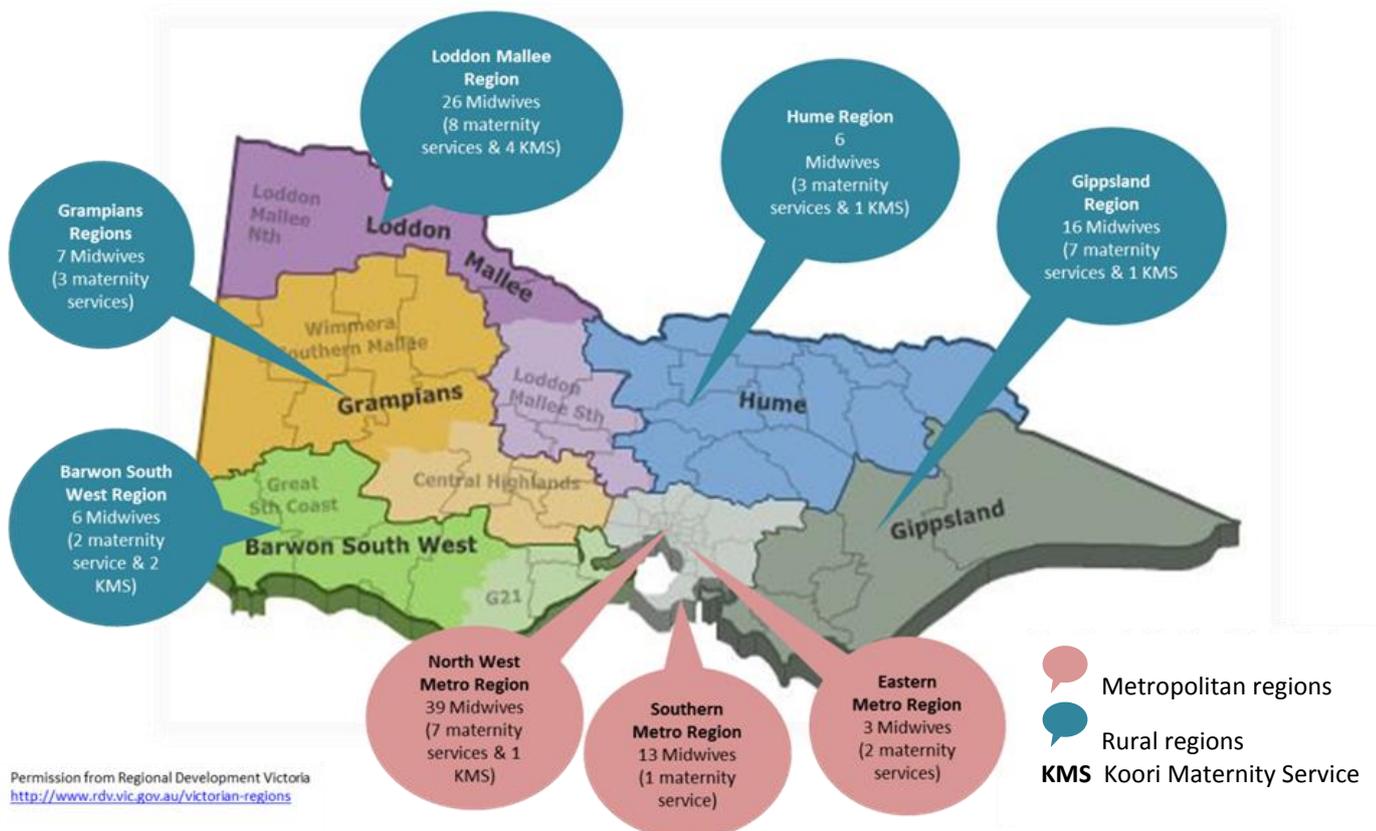
Advancing oral health in midwifery practice

April 2016

*Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles* has been working with Victorian midwives over the last 3 years to include oral health as part of routine care. This newsletter provides you with an update on how this work is progressing.

## Growth in the number of oral health trained midwives since 2013

The first Victorian midwives completed the pilot of the University of Western Sydney's Midwifery Initiated Oral Health (MIOH) Education Program in March 2013. Their evaluation of the program was very positive in terms of appropriateness of the program to their role as midwives and increase in knowledge gained and confidence to include oral health in their practice. Since the pilot, 116 midwives from maternity services across the state have completed the MIOH program including many midwives working in Koori Maternity Services. A fourth round of MIOH started late January 2016 with 38 midwives enrolled.



Maternity services with antenatal midwives trained in oral health as at December 2015.

Region	Health Service	Midwives trained
Barwon South West Region	Barwon Health	1
	KMS Wathaurong Aboriginal Health Service	1
	KMS Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative	1
	Portland District Health	3
Eastern Metro	Box Hill Hospital (Eastern Health)	1
	Monash Health Dandenong Hospital	1
	Clayton	1
Gippsland	Bairnsdale region Health Service	1
	Bass Coast regional Health	3
	Central Gippsland	4
	La Trobe Hospital	2
	Breed St Medical Practice	1
	KMS Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation	2
	Central Gippsland	2
	West Gippsland Health Care Group	1
Grampians	Ballarat Health Service	2
	Djerriwarrah Health Services	3
	West Wimmera Health Service	2
Hume	Aubury-Wodonga Health	2
	Northeast Health Wangaratta	1
	Nhumurkah District Health Service	2
	KMS Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative	1
Loddon Mallee	Bendigo Health	5
	Ramsay Health Care Mildura Base Hospital	3
	Echuca Regional Health	3
	Swan Hill District Health Maternity Unit	1
	Kerang District Health	1
	Kyabram and District Health Service	2
	Robinvale District Health	1
	KMS Coomealla Aboriginal Health Corporation (NSW)	1
	KMS Mallee District Aboriginal Services	1
	KMS Swan Hill Aboriginal Health Service	1
	Njernda Aboriginal Corporation Echuca	1
	Mallee Track Health & community Service	1
	Maryborough & District Health Service	5
	NW Metro	Northern Health: Broadmeadows Health Service
Northern Health		3
Independent		1
Mercy Hospital for Women		13
Werribee Mercy Hospital		2
Royal Women's Hospital		16
Victoria University		1
KMS Victorian Aboriginal Health Service		2
Southern Metro	Peninsula Health	13
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>116</b>

MIOH training places continues to be funded by DHSV, contact us to put your name on the waiting list for the next round. We also encourage managers of maternity services to get in touch to discuss a service level approach to offering this training.

## Victorian midwives' perspectives of the Midwifery Initiated Oral Health Education Program makes it to an international peer reviewed journal.

The experience of 33 Victorian midwives who were the first to pilot the Midwifery Initiated Oral Health Education Program is now documented and published in the international Biomed Central Pregnancy and Childbirth online journal. The article is entitled Midwives' perspectives of their ability to promote the oral health of pregnant women in Victoria, Australia and is available at:

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2393/15/110/abstract>.



### Midwives taking the oral health initiative

Since the introduction of Midwifery Initiated Oral Health Education Program many midwives have become champions of oral health.

One example has been two midwives (at the same service) who gathered information from their local private dental services on costs of a general check-up for a pregnant woman. They found quite a variation in price. They share this information with women who are not eligible to use the local public dental service.

If you have anything of interest to share on your experiences of including oral health into your role as a midwife please let us know. With your permission we will share your experiences in this newsletter as part of the philosophy of "learning from each other".

### Peninsula Health Women's Services midwives take on a partnership to increase pregnant women's access to dental services

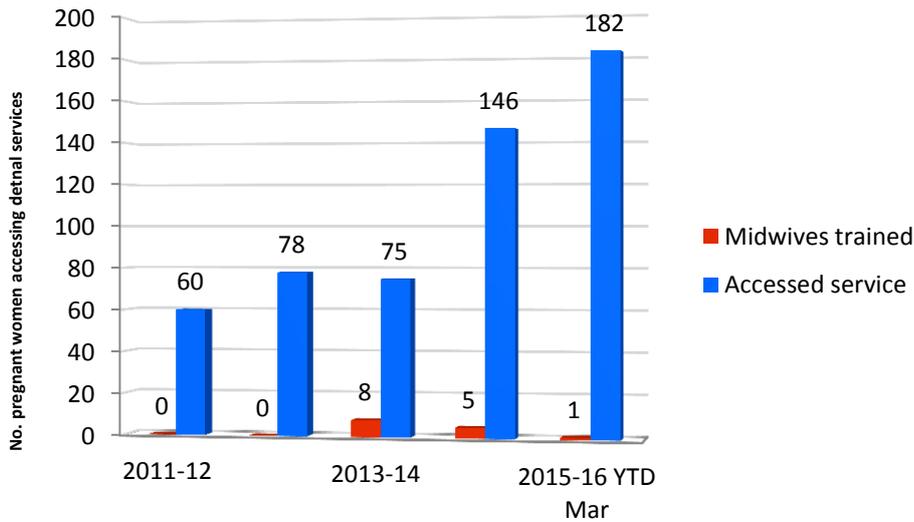
Having completed the MIOH education program the Women's Services manager at Frankston Hospital encourage the team of midwives involved in the ANC booking visit to do the MIOH program, this resulted in 13 midwives completing the training to date.

The next step was looking at how the new learnings could be put into practice. Recognising the importance of having an easy pathway for the midwives to refer clients to the local public dental service, a partnership was developed with the Health Promotion and Dental Services teams at Peninsula Health. The partnership has resulted in a simple electronic referral direct to the dental services intake desk. The referral was available on the midwives desktop in August 2014.

The strategies of management support, policy, oral health training and a clear referral process resulted in a 94.7% increase in the number of pregnant women attending the public dental service in 2014-2015.



The increase in number of pregnant women accessing dental services at Peninsula Health.



The Peninsula Health Promotion team conducted a focus group discussion with the midwives to evaluate the impact of the E-referral, here are some of their comments

“Before oral health training and support, oral health was not a large component of our work with clients.”

“A big difference! Oral health conversations happen with clients every day.”

“If a client raised oral health concerns we passed on contact details of local dentists but the onus was on the client to follow up”

“We have the ability to refer clients directly to community dental services within our appointment times.”

**Training, management policy support and a strong referral system does make a difference to pregnant women accessing dental services.**

## Oral Health enters the BOS reporting system

Oral health questions have now been inserted into the latest version of the Birthing Outcomes System (BOS) version 6.3.0, released in July 2015. It appears on the Physical Screen Check and Maternal Details 2 Screen. The BOS is used in 75% of Victorian maternity services. If your service is using BOS data on oral health assessments and dental referral, you can analyse your data, for example number of referrals and numbers of oral health assessments completed.

The screenshot shows the 'Antenatal Assessment - Maternal Details 2' form. It includes fields for 'Date of Interview', 'Mother's Aboriginal Status', 'Father's Aboriginal Status', 'Baby's Aboriginal Status', 'Preferred Language', 'Interpreter Required', 'Patient's Work', and 'Year of Arrival to Australia'. On the right side, there are fields for 'Preferred Name', 'Partner's Name', 'Present at Interview', 'Partner's Work', 'Intended Feeding', 'Special Diet', 'Allergy/Other', 'Oral Health Assessed', and 'Dental Health Referral'. The 'Oral Health Assessed' and 'Dental Health Referral' fields are circled in red. Below this is a 'Maternal Details Comments' section. The bottom part of the screenshot shows the 'Antenatal Assessment - Physical Check' section with a table of checkboxes for various physical checks.

	Not Checked	Checked NAD	Variance	
Teeth and Gums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Checked
Heart	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Checked
Breasts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Checked
Abd.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Checked
C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Checked
Phary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Checked
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Checked

Oral health questions now in the BOS data

The next focus is to advocate to Department of Health and Human Services for the inclusion of oral health into the Victorian Maternity Record.

## Training future workforces

To sustain oral health within midwifery practice, oral health needs to be incorporated into the professional education program for midwives at undergraduate and post graduate level.

Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles has begun partnering with local universities. In 2014 La Trobe University's School of Nursing and Midwifery expressed an interest to work with DHSV to develop oral health content resources for the students. Dr Michelle Newton (Lecturer & Course Coordinator of the Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery) arranged for La Trobe's media team to video a moderated conversation between two senior midwives and an oral health expert. The midwives Deborah Pidd (Mercy Hospital for Women) and Tracey Gilbert (The Royal Women's Hospital) provide their wisdom and practice as midwives in relation to oral health and Dr Hanny Calache (Associate Professor) provides the technical side of why oral health is important in pregnancy.



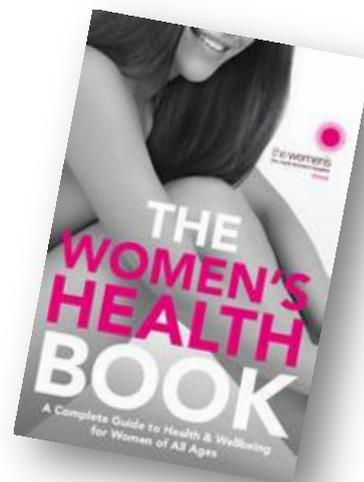
The video was used in second semester in 2015 by La Trobe's nursing and midwifery students.

You can find the video on our public website <https://www.dhsv.org.au/professionals/midwives>

## Oral health makes it into *The Women's Health Book*

The Women's Health Book is the definitive guide to health and wellbeing for every Australian woman in each stage of her life. The book includes a contribution relating to oral health during pregnancy by the DHSV Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles team.

The Women's Health Book is published by Random House and is the first complete guide to health and wellbeing for Australian women of all ages. It is available Australia-wide at all leading booksellers (RRP \$35) and also at the Women's hospital. All royalties from The Women's Health Book will benefit the Women's Foundation.



## New publication – for your information

The latest [Australia's mothers and babies 2013: in brief](#) was released in 2015.

This publication presents an overview of some of the key statistics and concepts from the National perinatal data collection. Detailed information on mothers and babies include:

- demographic information
- maternal characteristics
- antenatal period
- labour and birth
- birth outcomes
- perinatal deaths.

The report also provides Indigenous-specific information for mothers; reporting on antenatal care, smoking during pregnancy, pre-existing health conditions and labour. For Indigenous babies, information included in the report focuses on gestation age, birth weight, level of care after birth and perinatal deaths.



## Visit DHSV's online information and resource hub for midwives

DHSV has a dedicated professionals' page on our website with oral health information and resources especially for midwives. Visit [www.dhsv.org.au](http://www.dhsv.org.au), and click on the professionals tab, then click on 'Midwives' to access resources for your clients and information for you.



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