

# Inspiring

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



Advancing oral health in midwifery practice

March 2020

*Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles* has been working with Victorian midwives since 2012 to include oral health as part of routine care. This newsletter provides you with an update on how this work is progressing.

## Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles finalist in Victorian Public Healthcare Awards

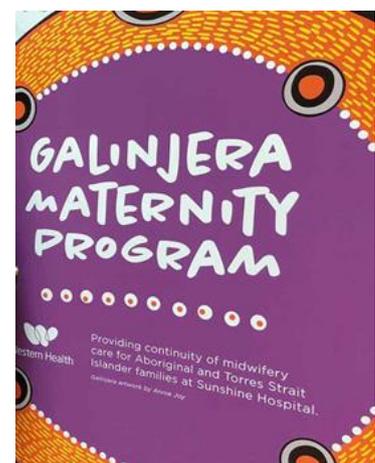
**Midwifery Oral Health program was one of the three finalists in the Minister for Health's award for improving maternal, child and family health**



To be a finalist is a great honour for DHSV. It is recognition at the Ministerial level of the excellent work midwives are doing across the state. This nomination highlights the importance of robust and effective partnerships and the commitment to achieve better outcomes for pregnant women. We acknowledge our partners Dr Ajesh George Centre for Oral Health Outcomes and Research Translation (Western Sydney University), the Australian College of Midwives who enabled DHSV to implement MIOH in Victoria. We also acknowledge the Victorian midwives who, on completing MIOH, have included oral health promotion, assessment and referral in their practice and the first booking visit. By doing so they are further contributing to providing the pregnant woman greater holistic care and her baby a better start in life.

## Congratulations to Galinjera Maternity Program

DHSV congratulates the Galinjera maternity program for winning a Victorian Public health Award 2019. Galinjera maternity program is leading the way with its care for Aboriginal mothers by providing caseload midwifery. The same midwife follows the mother from antenatal care to delivery and postnatal care, in order to improve outcomes for the mothers and babies. It's great that a number of midwives working in the Galinjera Program have completed MIOH. Participant sites include Western Health Sunshine Hospital, the Royal Women's, and the Mercy Hospital for Women.



# The Midwifery Initiated Oral Health Education Program has moved to a new home



Do you remember doing the MIOH course via the Western Sydney University's website? How hard it was to read the course material online so you were supplied with two hard copy Victorian MIOH booklets to assist you with all those articles.

That has all changed since MIOH has been transferred to the Australian College of Midwives (ACM) eLearning portal in July 2018.

The move involved revamping the course material making MIOH easy to navigate and read online. It is more interactive. No more waiting for your certificate to be posted out to you. It is automatically generated and emailed out to you on successful completion of a theoretical and skills based assessment exams.

**Midwifery Initiated Oral Health Program**

**\$176.00**

Now available as an e-Learning course

Sponsorship available for Victorian Midwives through Dental Health Services Victoria. For eligibility requirements visit [www.midwives.org.au](http://www.midwives.org.au).

Recognised by ACM for **16 CPD hours**

Developed by the Centre for Oral Health Outcomes & Research Translation in collaboration with:

acm Midwives, WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, Ingham Institute



Take a look at the website  
<https://www.midwives.org.au/shop/midwifery-initiated-oral-health>.

Dental Health Services Victoria continues to sponsor Victorian midwives to undertake MIOH so please spread the news through your networks to:

- a) Midwives with positions in antenatal models of care such as:
  - ✿ Midwives Clinics (Midwifery care)
  - ✿ Team midwifery, Midwifery group Practice (caseload)
  - ✿ Shared maternity care
  - ✿ High risk pregnancy clinic
  - ✿ Home birth
  - ✿ Specialist clinic
- b) Koori Maternity Service
- c) Midwifery lecturers and hospital based clinical educators
- d) Nurse Unit Managers of antenatal care services.



You do not have to be a member of the ACM to apply.  
DHSV sponsorship recruitment happens twice a year for two MIOH intakes  
February – March  
September- October

**Apply here** → <https://www.dhsv.org.au/oral-health-programs/hfhs/expression-of-interest>



## Are you looking for a chance to do a refresher of MIOH?

If you were part of the MIOH pilot in 2012-2013, or completed MIOH in 2013 -2015 and want to do the new ACM MIOH as a fresher cost free -

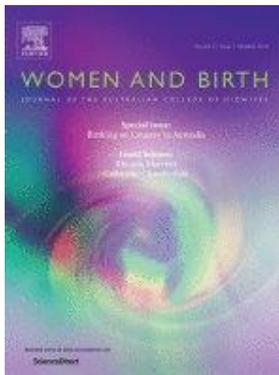
DHSV will cover the course fee for you in exchange for your feedback on:

1. The positioning of the Victorian resources within the online course
2. Your ideas on the integration of the Victorian resources into the steps of Module 3 Oral health screening and assessment.

If you are interested please contact us.

## Midwifery oral health, recent publications

Here are two new journal articles in relation to midwives, oral health and pregnancy that you may be interested in looking up. The article by Dahlen H, Johnson M et al in Women and Birth has been made open access for the month of March 2020. We thank Professor Caroline SE Homer AO Editor in Chief of Women and Birth Journal and Elsevier for making this possible.



Process evaluation of the midwifery initiated oral health-dental services: Perceptions of midwives in Greater Western Sydney.

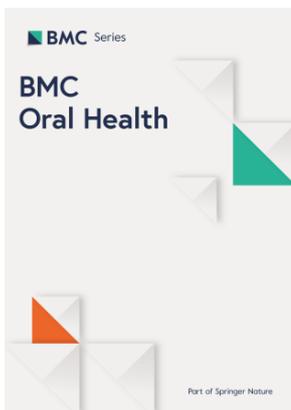
Dahlen H, Johnson M, Hoolsema J et al (2019)

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wombi.2018.06.021>

A qualitative analysis of the perceptions of Western Sydney midwives on the practicality, acceptability and feasibility of MIOH if it were scaled up and implemented into clinical practice.

Compare this with an earlier article (2015) on the perceptions of Victorian midwives.

<https://bmcpregnancychildbirth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12884-015-0536-x>



Effectiveness of preventive dental programs offered to mothers by non-dental professionals to control early childhood caries.

George A, Sousa M, Kong A, Blinkhorn A (2019)

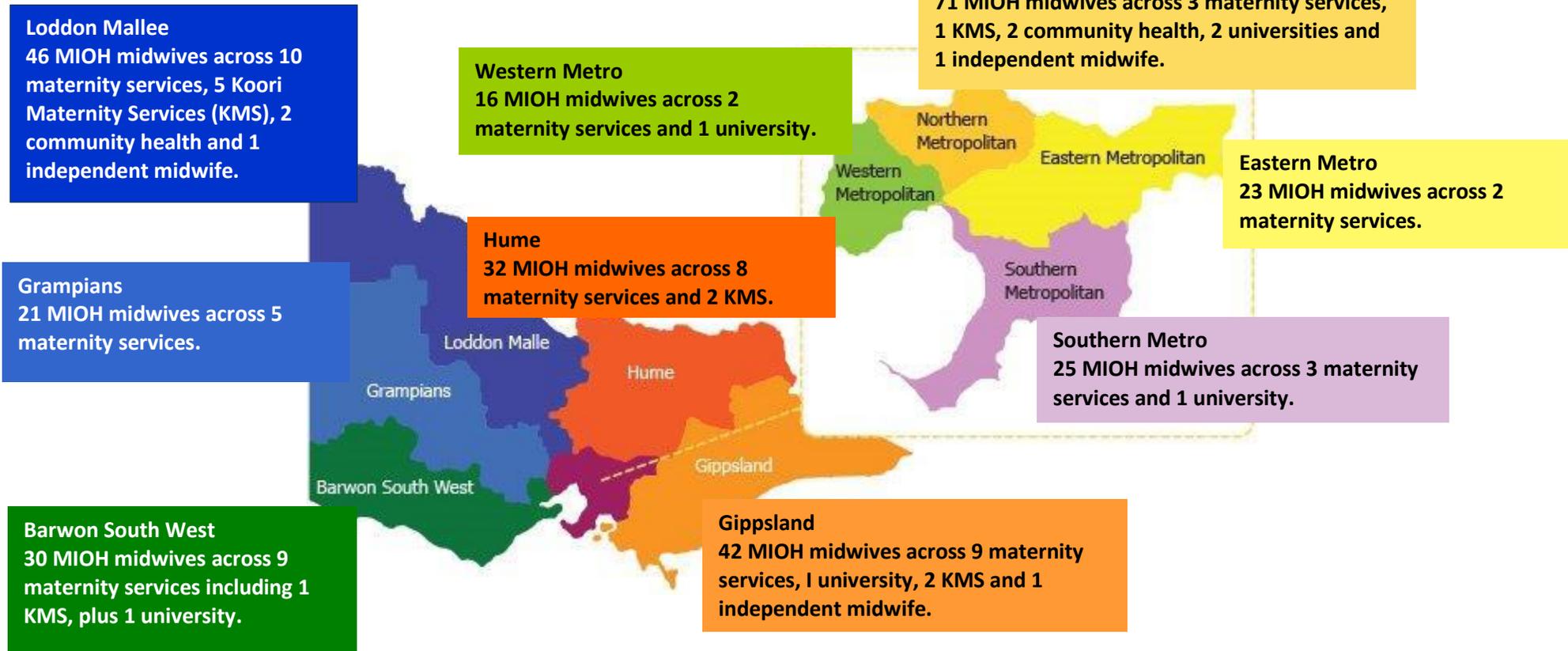
<https://bmcoralhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12903-019-0862-x>

A systematic review assessing if oral health promotion undertaken during antenatal/post natal period by non-dental professionals affects the oral health outcomes (clinical and behavioural) of the mothers and or the children.

It concludes that non dental professionals like midwives and maternal and child health nurses providing oral health promotion, assessment and referral could make a difference but further research is required.

## MIOH celebrates a milestone

Since the first 33 Victorian midwives piloted the Western Sydney University's MIOH for New South Wales midwives, Victoria has now reached over the 300 mark. At the end of December, with the tenth round of MIOH training, 306 midwives from all over Victoria have completed this important education program. Check the map below as it shows the numbers of trained MIOH midwives across the rural and metropolitan regions of the Department of Health and Human Services. If your maternity service would like more of its antenatal care team of midwives trained in MIOH please contact us.



# Interdisciplinary collaboration in Bass Coast Health

An online Public Dental e-Referral was developed in 2017-2018 for the Bass Coast Health (BCH) website under 'Contact Us' tab. It was based on a referral model implemented by Peninsula Health. There was some promotion of the e-Referral site to the midwives which resulted in an increase in pregnant women visiting the public dental service but in 2019 the referrals had dropped off.

<https://www.gha2.net.au/BCH/Content/Services/Community-Dental-Services>

A meeting between Melanie Shields, Nurse Unit Manager Women and Family Services, Mariana Cassini, Program Manager Dental and Outpatient Services and Kyshen Tang, Dental Team Leader was held in August 2019 to discuss BCH policy and processes in relation to the e-Referrals of eligible pregnant women to the public dental service. The meeting discussed the need for ongoing collaboration to target oral health promotion to GPs, midwives and Maternal and Child Health Nurses and raise awareness about the e-Referral tool available on BCH website. DHSV Health Promotion Project Officer was in attendance, and encouraged promotion of the MIOH course to the antenatal team. This is an important step for collaborative efforts towards the strengthening of referral pathways.

Watch this space as exciting team work is happening here to improve overall health and oral health outcomes for pregnant women and children.



From L-R Bass Cost Health Mariana Cassini, Kyshen Tang, Melanie Shields and DHSV Gillian Lang

We would love to hear from maternity services or dental services about innovations you are making towards strengthening collaboration and increasing oral health referrals within your antenatal service.

## Contact us:

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