



## Midwifery Fellowship

### Background

The Midwifery Fellowship was established in 2003 by the Office of the Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health, Western Australia to demonstrate its recognition of the value and importance of midwives in Western Australia. The Midwifery Fellowship is awarded annually to celebrate International Midwives' Day on 5 May.

It provides the opportunity for midwives to undertake or complete midwifery research at the masters or doctoral level in WA. The focus of the research is to have direct application to midwifery practice relevant to WA.

It may also provide the opportunity for midwives to undertake a study tour to examine new innovations, best practice, or evidence based midwifery in action.

### Aim of the Fellowship

The aim of the Fellowship is to:

- recognise the contribution of midwives to our health service on International Midwives Day
- provide professional development opportunities for midwives, and
- support the development of the fellowship of midwifery in Western Australia

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## Midwifery Fellowship Recipients

### 2008 Midwifery Fellowship

Recipient: Ms Tracy Martin  
King Edward Memorial Hospital

Ms Martin is currently enrolled in the Masters of Midwifery (research) at Curtin University of Technology and the title of her proposed study is *"Evaluation of the Next Birth After Caesarean (N-BAC) Clinic: An innovative initiative to improve the quality of care to women who have had a caesarean section"*.

The fellowship will allow the study to be undertaken which will evaluate the current practice being undertaken at KEMH by the N-BAC Clinic. The aim of the clinic is to improve the quality of care offered to women who have experienced a Caesarean Section, and to promote safe and successful vaginal birth in a subsequent pregnancy. It is envisaged that results of this study may have an impact on the rate of Caesarean Section in WA.



## 2007 Midwifery Fellowship

Recipient: Ms Kelly Prandl  
Armadale Kelmscott District Hospital

The fellowship assisted Kelly to undertake a study tour within Australia to collect information on current successful provision of antenatal care for Indigenous women to inform the development of the Boodjar Yorgas Clinic for Indigenous women at Armadale Health Service

*Quote: " The wellbeing and health of Aboriginal families and babies is not just an Aboriginal Problem. It is an Australian concern and as a profession we are well placed to make a difference right at the very beginning."*

## 2006 Midwifery Fellowship

Recipient: Ms Sara Bayes  
King Edward memorial Hospital for Women

The fellowship assisted Sara to complete her Masters of Science where she is examining the progress of birthing by planned caesarean section: using a grounded theory approach.

*Quote: "I hope to develop a deep understanding of the women's experience of a planned caesarean section that was not of her choice. This will assist midwives and other professionals to understand these women's experience and improve clinical care".*

## 2005 Midwifery Fellowship

Recipient: Ms Heather Nunan  
King Edward memorial Hospital for Women

The fellowship allowed Heather to undertake a study tour of Sweden to explore and investigate how midwifery led models of care with a multidisciplinary context, can help and support pregnant women who experience psychological suffering from intense fear of childbirth. The insights gained from this tour will provide information and practical clinical knowledge on how similar services could be implemented and evaluated in a Western Australian context for women at risk of suffer psychological morbidity as a result of their childbirth experience.

*Quote: "I am hopeful that we will be able to offer treatment for our women with Fear of Childbirth"*





## 2004 Midwifery Fellowship

Recipient: Miss Tracy Starling  
Geraldton Hospital

The fellowship provided the opportunity for Tracy to examine new innovations, best practice and evidence based midwifery care in action through a study tour of the United Kingdom and Australia. The study tour was aimed at looking at 'choice in childbirth' in order to gain knowledge of the most current practices utilized in the provision of maternity care both in Australia and the United Kingdom.

*Quote: "choice in childbirth" - it is every woman's right!"*

## 2003 Inaugural Midwifery Fellowship

Recipient: Ms Julie Stockwell  
Bunbury Hospital

The fellowship enabled Julie to travel to New Zealand to study modes of midwifery care, with particular emphasis on team midwifery-led care. Julie spent time in both the north and south islands to explore the implementation of local midwifery care in a number of midwifery centers.

*Quote: " I am a passionate support for women and their choices surrounding childbirth".*

