**Assessment 2: Final Conference Abstract and Reference List**

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**Increasing Midwifery Participation in Perineal Suturing: (Poster)**

Perineal trauma and the consequences that arise from it, are highly significant in a woman’s health and wellbeing. Every year millions of women worldwide sustain perineal trauma when giving birth (around 85%).Most midwives who attend suturing workshops do not complete the accreditation process to become an actively suturing midwife. However, with midwives being significant in providing care and support to women, it is essential that they are educated and practise in such a way to reduce perineal trauma and provide competent, skilled care in their assessment and repair.

Perineal assessment and repair performed by inadequately trained staff can result in incompetent and inappropriate management.Findings suggest that correct clinical assessment of perineal tears and the provision of woman-centred, personalised care by a Midwife during the immediate postpartum period are critical to ensuring positive outcomes for women who experience perineal trauma.

This policy aims to enforce that all Midwives are trained and accredited in standardised management and repair of perineal tears, by making it a standard within APHRA’s registration and renewal process.

This would involve the attendance at up-to-date evidence based Inservice’s and face-to-face workshops for continuous professional development and renewal of registration. Inservice’s would comprise of suturing techniques, postpartum care, preventative measures and looking after women in subsequent births following on from severe tears. The objective of this policy is to encourage and improve the qualifications and skills of midwives in perineal repair, and in turn promote woman centred care through consistency of care.

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