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Continuity B - Abstract solo 15 minute Policy Presentation

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**Midwifery-Led Continuity of care for well women who have had Assisted Reproductive Technology.**

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**Midwifery-Led Continuity of Care for well women who have had Assisted Reproductive Technology.**

This policy is designed to ensure that every well woman who has had assisted reproductive technology (ART) is offered a place in a midwifery-led continuity of care program in ACT Public Hospitals. Women who have had ART are often cared for by private obstetricians or Clinic midwives, not offered the opportunity to enter into a continuity of care program. Studies show that women who receive care from a known midwife are more likely to have a positive birth experience.

Operating from both Calvary Public Hospital and Centenary Hospital for Women and Children birth centres, this program would include weekly ‘Mothers Group’ gatherings. These groups give women an opportunity to connect with others on a similar journey, with the focus being on the woman’s transition from a highly medicalised conception to healthy pregnancy, and parenthood with close mental health support throughout. Midwives running this program would have prerequisite knowledge in all forms of ART having undergone additional training and personal development programs. Midwives in this program would also have a reduced caseload in order to allow extra time for women, with increased antenatal and postnatal time spent with women if necessary.

The success of the program would be evaluated by an anonymous questionnaire prior to discharge, birth outcomes, maternal satisfaction relating to their care throughout the experience and feedback.

Well women who have had a medicalised conception, are well women, who should be offered the opportunity for a less medicalised and more nurturing care model throughout their pregnancy, birth and beyond!

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