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**Introducing a Continuity of Care model for young women in Australian Capital Territory.**

In Australia, young pregnant women continue to be seen as a major health and socioeconomical risk. Even with the pregnancy rate of this demographic decreasing since 1980.

In 2019, 7.7% of births in Australia were made up of young women aged 15-19 years, with no specific detail on the care they received. Current maternity options available for these women in the Australian Capital Territory, do not routinely allocate them to a continuity of care program.

Young pregnant women and their babies may experience complexities such as, pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, instrumental births, pre-term births, low birth weight and admission to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Minimal evidence exists within Australia; however, it does show young women who receive continuity of care, experience fewer complexities.

The proposed policy is to introduce a continuity of care program for young women in the Australian Capital Territory. Young pregnant women at 12 weeks’ gestation will be invited to participate in this program, after registering their pregnancy with Canberra maternity option services. The continuity of care program will run and be supported by a small group of midwives, offering more appropriate and tailored education and support, during the antenatal, intrapartum, and postnatal periods. This will decrease the complexities these young women and their babies face.

Once these young women complete the program, at approximately four weeks postpartum. Their experiences will be evaluated and change or enhance the program and meet the needs of young women. Ultimately, offering young women optimal outcomes for their pregnancy journey and beyond.

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