

Maternity services brief



1

7 million Australians live rurally



contributing over \$500 billion to our economy, yet they are funded over \$800 less per person for healthcare

2

over half of rural maternity services have closed



leading to increases in roadside birth, higher rates of preterm and stillbirths, and reduced services across the whole hospital

3

Only 15% of women can access a known midwife



this is state dependant, but women request this model. It has lower rates of stillbirth and preterm, higher satisfaction, reduces intervention and costs 22% less than other models

4

Current funding sources don't align with recommendations



Commonwealth supports activity based funding, leading to inequity in rural funding, and incentivizing over-use of intervention. Need to move to **Bundled Funding**

Solutions

1

deliver bundled funding across maternity settings and care provider to ensure more equity in funding and service delivery

2

address any outstanding structural and financial barrier for women to access Endorsed Midwives including Medicare for Homebirth

3

ensure the funding agreements between the Commonwealth and State and Territory government has provisions for providing maternity services according to the Rural Birthing Index

4

ensure national maternity care satisfaction data and experience of the perinatal period is captured