



www.maternityconsumernetwork.org.au

“Better outcomes for Mothers and Babies means better outcomes for the whole community.”

Background:

In 2009, a national review into maternity services took place. Because of this review, the National Maternity Services Plan was "born".

You can find the report of the review here:

[https://health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/624EF4BED503DB5BCA257BF0001DC83C/\\$File/Improving%20Maternity%20Services%20in%20Australia%20-%20The%20Report%20of%20the%20Maternity%20Services%20Review.pdf](https://health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/624EF4BED503DB5BCA257BF0001DC83C/$File/Improving%20Maternity%20Services%20in%20Australia%20-%20The%20Report%20of%20the%20Maternity%20Services%20Review.pdf)

You can find the NMSP here:

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/8AF951CE492C799FCA257BF0001C1A4E/\\$File/maternityplan.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/8AF951CE492C799FCA257BF0001C1A4E/$File/maternityplan.pdf)

In 2016, this plan expired, and Queensland's Health Department volunteered to create a "new" national maternity framework. It was an epic fail- from lack of consultation with stakeholders, employing a private company to create the framework, to no evaluation of the NMSP. We've met with the Federal Department of Health and asked for them to take over the development of the NMSP.

What you can do:

We need your help!! Please email your local Federal Member of Parliament, who you can find here:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members

It's their job to represent their constituent and look after your interests. Make sure you include your address- as then they have to reply!

What to say:

-You can let them know how the NMSP has seen more private midwives, more continuity of care midwifery across Australia, but it still lacked any accountability for the priorities established.

- request your local MP ask the Federal Department of Health (Minister Greg Hunt) to take on the NMSP and start an evaluation of the previous NMSP.

- you can tell your local MP how having a NMSP may have improved services in your local area. eg. more MGPs, private midwives with visiting access OR if services haven't improved, how having a plan is much needed because....(maybe women want MGP, perhaps there are poor outcomes for indigenous mother and babies etc.), and also mention accountability in a new NMSP is imperative.

- Include there is a need for public available data on birthing facilities/care providers. We need leadership and direction for maternity services, the priorities in the NMSP were ideal, BUT there needs to be some accountability and KPIs to achieve real success in a future plan.

-imperative, the consumer voice is central to discussions and involved with a new NMSP.