

Continuity of Care Experiences

School of Health

What is a Continuity of Care Experience (CoCE)?

An important part of midwifery education is for students to understand what pregnancy, birth and having a baby means to a woman and her family. One way this is learnt is by forming a relationship with a pregnant woman and following her through her pregnancy journey, witnessing the birth of her baby and visiting her in the days following the birth. This is known as a Continuity of Care Experience or 'CoCE'.

The central educational focus of this program is based on a 'with woman' philosophy which upholds the fundamental belief that the woman's experience of pregnancy and childbirth are unique to each woman and that birth is a normal life experience.

Accordingly, as part of the student's learning each student is required to enter into a professional partnership with a number of women so that the student is able to follow the women's progress through their journeys of pregnancy to early parenting. It will also provide them with experiences in hospital and community-based settings and interaction with a range of health care providers. Students must complete 10 of these experiences before they are able to register as a Midwife in Australia.

What will this mean for you?

Having a midwifery student will not affect the care that you receive from your midwives, doctors, or any other care providers. The student is an extra person and will not replace any other care provider you are booked in with. The student may assist the midwives and other staff with your care, but this is completely up to you and what you are comfortable with.

Should you agree to participate in this experience, you will be asked to consider offering the student opportunities to accompany you through such experiences as prenatal visits, childbirth education sessions, routine screening, and postnatal visits. Where time and circumstances permit, and with your consent, the student may also be with you during your labour and the birth of your baby.

It is not permitted for students to engage with CoCE participants via social media.

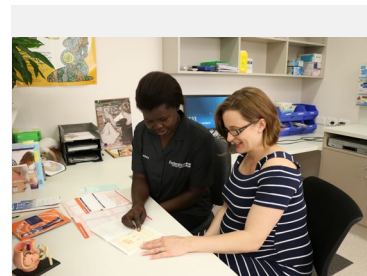
The midwifery student will be required to:

- Attend a minimum of 4 antenatal visits
- Provide support to you during labour and birth, where time and circumstances permit
- Attend a minimum of 2 postnatal visits

If you are interested in being involved in the CoCE

We ask that you complete a consent form provided to you by the midwifery student. This consent form will be stored securely at Federation University to protect your personal information.

If you wish to withdraw your consent and stop being involved in the CoCE, you are free to do so at any time.



Thank you for taking the time to consider being a part of the Continuity of Care Experiences.



Further information

If you require further information on the CoCE and the role of the midwifery student, please feel free to contact the Midwifery Academics at FedUni by emailing:

Midwifery@federation.edu.au



2.1.2 Pro Forma Continuity of Care Consent



CONSENT FORM

I,..... of
(print name) (address)

.....
Certify that I am voluntarily giving my consent to participate in a 'continuity of care' experience of my pregnancy, childbirth and early parenting with a Graduate Diploma of Midwifery student from Federation University Australia, whose name is:

.....
I certify that I have received a letter explaining the 'continuity of care' experience and the expectations and commitment required of me, and that I freely consent to participation involving a professional relationship with a midwifery student from pregnancy to the first weeks following the birth of my baby including such activities as:

- Basic health assessment of myself and baby by the student;
- The student accompanying me to prenatal visits, childbirth education sessions, routine screening and after birth visits during the first weeks, and where mutually agreed for students to be with me during my labour and birth of my baby.

I certify that I have had the opportunity to have any questions answered and that I understand that I can withdraw from this 'continuity of care' experience at any time and that this withdrawal will not jeopardise me in any way.

I have been informed that the information I provide will be kept confidential.

Signed: Date:/...../.....

Witness (*Must be someone other than the midwifery student.*)

Print name:

Signature:

Date:/...../.....

Any queries about your participation in this experience may be directed to a midwifery academic via this email address: Midwifery@federation.edu.au