

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## MATERNITY SERVICE REFORM NEEDED

Murchison MLC and midwife Ruth Forrest, supports the need for reform to maternity services, to ensure that safe, cost effective and sustainable services are available to all women in Australia into the future.

Ms Forrest calls on both State and Federal Governments to work together to achieve the necessary reform to ensure all women have access to appropriate care during pregnancy and childbirth and the important postnatal period.

“The evidence clearly shows midwifery care for healthy pregnant women is safe, cost effective and sustainable and reform to maternity services is needed to ensure all women have access to this level of care” Ms Forrest said.

“All women should have access to a known midwife during their pregnancy and childbirth experience and newborn babies should be considered as individuals in staffing considerations for postnatal care” Ms Forrest stated.

“Unless changes are made to maternity services we will be faced with an ever increasing exodus of midwives from the profession, leading to further workforce challenges” Ms Forrest stated.

“Reform is also needed to ensure that demands on our overstretched health budgets and not exacerbated through the unnecessary costs associated with increasing interference in the pregnancies of normal healthy women, through the rising intervention rates in childbirth and record high caesarean birth rates around Australia” Ms Forrest said.

28<sup>th</sup> September 2007

For further information, please phone 0419 879 524.

A rally has been organised in Canberra today to seek reform in maternity services. The rally has been organised by Janie Nottingham, a mother of six and midwife and is supported by Cas McCullough a Brisbane mother of three and National President of the Maternity Coalition.

Janie Nottingham 0420 620 808

Cas McCullough, Maternity Coalition 0438 898 706