

26 February 2025

Dear Ms Haddad MP,

Response to House of Assembly Select Committee on Reproductive, Maternal and Paediatric Health Services in Tasmania.

As Head of School for the University of Tasmania's School of Nursing I provide you with the following information in response to your questions.

1. Could you please provide the Committee with an overview of the current pathways to midwifery qualifications in Tasmania.

The University of Tasmania offers postgraduate qualifications for those with an existing midwifery qualification to further their professional development. The University of Tasmania paused its intake for the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery in 2016 due to low enrolments. Midwifery qualifications are available to Tasmanians through attending an interstate university whilst undertaking their clinical practicum in a Tasmanian hospital. Bachelor offerings and postgraduate programs (for Registered Nurses) can be provided this way, and for the postgraduate pathway this usually requires employment with a midwifery service prior to enrolment in the course (these places are limited). Students attend a 'block of study' at the home university, usually twice per year. Exact course structures are dependent on the relevant offering university.

2. Does the University of Tasmania have any current plans to establish an undergraduate degree in midwifery?

The University of Tasmania is exploring options for providing Tasmanians the opportunity to study midwifery. We recognise that midwives are an essential part of our health workforce, and discussions are continuing with the Department of Health through our strategic partnership on how our university can best support midwifery education in the State.

These discussions are of high priority and we are actively engaging in conversations and acutely aware of the needs to find a viable solution. Midwifery offerings have specific practicum requirements for students which creates complexity around ensuring the offerings are long term financially sustainable and appropriate to future workforce development.

3. Would the University of Tasmania like to provide any further comment regarding the Committee's Terms of Reference?

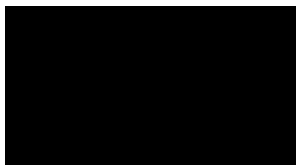
The University of Tasmania's School of Nursing provides postgraduate certificate specialisation qualifications (available in Graduate Certificate in Midwifery - Specialisation) available in the following specialisations for direct entry Midwives, i.e a midwife, but not also a Registered Nurse:

- Child and Family Health
- Neonatal Intensive and Special Care
- Quality and Safety
- Leadership in Practice
- Clinical Teaching

As well, relevant to your terms of reference the School offers registered nurses a paediatric post graduate certificate specialisation.

Finally, midwives are able to undertake the Masters of Advanced Practice (specialisation) suite of programs offered through the College of Health and Medicine ([57A Master of Advanced](#)

[Practice \(Specialisation\) - Courses & Units - University of Tasmania, Australia](#)). If they have undertaken a Graduate Certificate in Midwifery Specialisation, they are to articulate into the Graduate Diploma of Advanced Practice and the Master of Advanced Practice.



Professor Christine Stirling PhD, MPA, BN, RN

Head, School of Nursing | College of Health & Medicine | University of Tasmania