

19 April 2017

Professor Steve Robson
President
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College
of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Email: awilson@ranzocg.edu.au

Dear Prof Robson,

Re: RANZOG draft Maternity Framework for Australia

Thank you for inviting the RACGP to comment on the RANZCOG draft Maternity Framework for Australia.

The RACGP wholeheartedly agrees that maternity care is an important area for inter-professional collaboration and, as such, its important a balanced representation of all stakeholders involved in providing maternity care is reflected in any framework. The overriding principle is that care should remain woman-centered, with appropriate choices. There is some concern that GPs are being marginalised out of care provision.

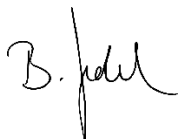
General practice provides person centred, continuing, comprehensive and coordinated whole-person healthcare to individuals and families in their communities. GPs provide continuity of care for women before, during and after their pregnancies.

Further to supporting women-centered care, the suggestion that small birthing units should have Special Care Nurseries (SCN) (p. 31) will likely have implications for the viability facilities of smaller and rural communities. Whilst there are certain risks associated with birthing outside of a major centre, retaining birthing services in smaller and rural communities is also important for provision of further health services to the region.

As you point out, a National Maternity Framework is undergoing a consultative process at this time through Deloitte on behalf of COAG. We share your concerns about the development process for that Framework and will be expressing these concerns as part of our feedback to that document.

As a general rule, the RACGP does not formally endorse documents of this nature but we thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Kind regards,



Dr Bastian Seidel
President
