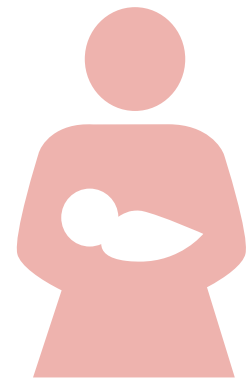# Second generation of mums returning to give birth

Caboolture Hospital Maternity Nurse Unit Manager Melinda O'Sullivan has experienced a lot of changes to the maternity and newborn service since it opened its doors 20 years ago.

"It is not uncommon to see the second generation of women coming back and giving birth to their own children at the hospital," Melinda said.

"There have been a few times where I have supported mothers to deliver their babies, and can remember when these women were newborns themselves."

Melinda joined Maternity and Newborn Services as a midwife when it began on the 26 September 1994, and now has helped support more than 33,500 births.

"Since 1994, the demand for maternity services has increased significantly from about 1,000 births in the first year to more than 2,000 babies being delivered at the hospital each year," Melinda said.

1,960

births at
Caboolture Hospital

in 2014-2015

{ **833** births through group practice }

"Since the inception of the maternity service the number of registered midwives has grown from approximately 27 to 109 permanent staff made up of midwives, nurses and assistant nurses.

Recently, Melinda joined a 20-year celebration with current maternity staff and six other midwives who had worked at the hospital for two decades – Trudy Young, Helen Jahkne, Karen Nightingale, Carole Dodd, Karen Rylance and Robyn Alexander.

A key highlight for Melinda has been the extension of the Ngarrama North Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander maternity service which supported around 150 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women each year during pregnancy, birth and the first few weeks of newborn care.

Other significant maternity milestones over the past few decades have included the establishment of the 24-hour 12-bed neonatal unit which provides more specialist care for newborns over 32 weeks gestation, and the extension of home visits following birth through the Mums and Bubs program.

"The introduction of the new midwife-led group practices at the hospital and in community-based locations including the Holding Hands, Lucina and Midwives and Me teams has been significant," Melinda said.

For Melinda, the hospital environment and her connection with the local community has played an important part in her longevity.

"I have a strong local connection as I grew up in Caboolture and my father was a policeman here," Melinda said. "Personally I like giving support to people in our community – ensuring that women who come to the hospital feel safe."

For further information please visit Caboolture Hospital's Maternity and Newborn services site at www.health.qld.gov.au/caboolture/maternity/default.asp

Above: (from left) Trudy Young, Helen Jahkne, Karen Rylance, Carol Dodd, Robyn Alexander, Melinda O'Sullivan and Karen Nightingale were the first midwives to join Caboolture Hospital two decades ago.