



# Rachel Nolan MP

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## **BLIGH GOVERNMENT DELIVERS BETTER MATERNITY CARE FOR IPSWICH MUMS**

"The Bligh Government has again delivered for Ipswich with an improved maternity service providing one-on-one midwifery support from conception to post-birth for Ipswich mums," announced Member for Ipswich Ms Rachel Nolan.

Following a Budget announcement of \$9 million over four years, Premier Anna Bligh was at Ipswich Hospital on Sunday August 3 to announce the first enhanced maternity care service locations to benefit from the funds.

"Pregnancy is a very natural part of life, but for many women it can also be a very daunting and vulnerable time," Ms Bligh said.

"This is about delivering personal, professional and local support to regional Queensland mums and mums-to-be: from the moment they conceive right through to the early weeks of motherhood.

"For many this will give them the option of being supported locally and removing the need to travel to access services, which means they can stay close to home near family and loved ones.

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan welcomed the government's first stage investment of \$1million in the program saying that Ipswich had earlier run a trial of the midwifery model of care at the Ipswich Hospital with excellent outcomes.

"Feedback from midwives and mothers has been resoundingly positive and now the Bligh government has ensured that Ipswich women have this important service available to them.

"The midwifery model of care has demonstrated a reduction in obstetric interventions, pharmacological support during labour, post natal depression, and an increased success with breast feeding.

"There's the added benefit of increased job satisfaction for midwives. This in turn makes it an attractive career option and should improve rates of recruitment and job retention.

"The Ipswich program is specifically designed to meet the needs of our community by focusing on low risk pregnancies. The program will be carefully evaluated with the aim of expanding services into other communities.

"The Bligh government's program of midwifery support is good for mums, good for babies and good for midwives, and now it's also good for Ipswich."

The midwifery services are currently available in Ipswich, and will be expanded to Logan and Charleville by the end of the year.