

## Data collection for Homebirth in Australia

Discussion with [REDACTED]  
21 April 2011

Western Australia has legislation set out in the regulations of the *Public Health Act* that mandates reporting requirements for privately practising midwives to inform the Director General of Health of information related to their practise.

This forms part of the perinatal database collection. It is mandated as part of this that PPMs complete a notification of birth.

For home births, there is a schedule 2 which comprises the information required for a 'home birth report'. This has been in effect for 5 years but does not include statistical data collection but rather is a narrative of the birth giving information- such as transfers to hospitals/cooperation of the hospital etc

WA is planning to change this schedule to allow for data collection around the core maternity indicators. These indicators are presently being agreed and developed for endorsement and this is decided by a National Expert Advisory Group which includes all states and territories and is Chaired by Professor Jeremy Oates of RANZCOG. At this point 10 of these indicators have been endorsed with another 7 still in the consultation phase.

These indicators include

- Incidence of Mother smoking
- First antenatal visit within the first trimester
- Transfer rates to hospital
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degree tears
- APGAR scores.

WA will change their schedule 2 to reflect relevant indicators for home birth once this project is completed.

This data reporting will then be mandated for state and territory jurisdictions to comply with. However there will be no compulsion for PPMS to provide this data unless other state/ territories make change to their legislation.

[REDACTED] understands that no other state or territory has this mandated in their Public Health Act and is not aware of any move for them to do so.