

Wiimali Chronicle

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Sunny, High 34, Low 28

100th Baby born at new birth centre

Midwives and mothers from Wiimali birth centre celebrated the 100th birth at the new birth centre on Monday this week.

Despite misgivings and negativity from certain sectors of the medical community, the centre has shown that midwifery care is safe.

Wiimali has joined the increasing numbers of Australian cities and towns that provide more mother and baby friendly birth facilities. Jenny Able is a new mother, whose baby Jeremy was the 100th baby born at the birth centre. Jenny had nothing but praise for the care she received from her midwife.



Jenny, Jeremy, mother Sarah and Grandmother Nell (left to right)

“I felt so prepared and ready to become a mother, that when labour started, I just knew I could do it. Sally was there, smiling and encouraging me, I just looked at her and knew I was fine. I can honestly say, that even though labour and birth is hard, it has been the best day in my life”. Jenny

and her husband Peter had attended parenting and breastfeeding groups at the centre during her pregnancy. Jenny had her antenatal visits at the centre or at home so that Peter could be more involved. Jenny said her midwife was very flexible and she always felt great after a visit with her, even if she had gone to see her having ‘one of those days’.

Jenny’s parents were worried at first. They were used to the old idea of seeing a doctor for the pregnancy and having the baby in hospital. As Jenny explained, “I wasn’t sick, pregnancy is normal. I was really healthy, so it makes sense to give birth in a relaxed place with experts in normal birth”.

Push for Midwifery Care

Women in Clairsdale have formed an action group “Birth Choices for Clairsdale women” which is pushing for a midwifery care option like that in Wiimali. A local spokeswoman, Amy Laws has written to the health service and the government and provided a petition signed by over 900 townspeople arguing for a birth centre similar to

the one we have in Wiimali. Amy’s argument is that it is not fair that the women in Clairsdale are disadvantaged by not having the same service as women in Wimalii.

Given the success of the birth centre in Wiimali, women in Clairsdale have strong grounds for ensuring their community is similarly serviced.

A health service spokesperson said that there are plans in the near future to build a birth centre in Clairsdale. Ms Laws said the women want a time frame.