



# healthy mothers healthy families survey

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Healthy Mothers Healthy Families Survey  
(SA)

# Research team



## Investigators

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## South Australian research staff

Ms Penny Bezar, Research Coordinator

Ms Roxanne Miller, Aboriginal project officer (Port Lincoln)

Ms Angela Slone, Aboriginal project officer (Adelaide)



# Background

- n Murdoch Childrens Research Institute collaborating with Uni of Adelaide & Uni SA
- n Funded by NHMRC with contributions & support from the SA DoH & Victorian DHS
- n Three Victorian surveys of recent mothers – 1989, 1994, 2000
- n First survey of this kind in SA



## Changing context for maternity care

- § Increasing proportion of 'older mothers', fewer 'young mothers' except in Indigenous communities
- § Increasing proportion of operative births
- § Increasing proportion of women leaving hospital within 48 hours of birth
- § Medical & midwifery workforce shortages, especially affecting rural areas

# Two states, two studies (2007-2010)

- n A survey of recent mothers in South Australia & Victoria in 2007

Healthy Mothers Healthy Families Survey

- n A sister study for Aboriginal families in 2008 conducted in partnership with AHCSA & VACCHO

Aboriginal Families Study





## Why are we doing the study?

- n To find out what South Australian & Victorian women think of maternity & postnatal care
- n To inform policy and practice: addressing current policy issues
- n To use the information we gather to advocate for changes to improve services for women and families



# Aims of the survey

- n Women's views & experiences of care during pregnancy, birth & postnatal period
- n Maternity & postnatal service strategies
- n Models of care
- n Length of stay & provision of home-based services
- n Maternal depression & intimate partner violence & responsiveness of services to psychosocial issues



# Healthy Mothers Healthy Families Survey

- § State-wide postal survey
- § Distributed by hospitals & home birth practitioners
- § All eligible women giving birth in SA in an 8 week period- Sept & Oct 2007
- § Mailed to women 5-6 months postpartum
- § Past response rates from Victorian surveys 63-71%

# A postal survey of women giving birth in Victoria & South Australia in 2007

2800  
women  
giving  
birth in SA



5000  
women  
giving  
birth in  
VIC



# Translating research into practice

## à 'the groundwork'

- n Planning (Dept of Health involvement)
- n Stakeholder engagement
- n State-wide connections
- n Consultation & reference group
- n Profiling the study



# Translating research into practice

## à Looking ahead

- n Overview of current services
- n Analysis
- n Dissemination of findings



# Timeline

## 2007

- n Hospital survey – July 2007
- n Consultation with stakeholders & piloting of study questionnaire

## 2008

- n Postal survey (n>7000 women) – February-April 2008

## 2009

- n Feedback to hospitals, health services



## Further information

[www.mcri.edu.au/healthymothers/](http://www.mcri.edu.au/healthymothers/)

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