

Midwifery-Led Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare in the Community: A New Model of Care in Victoria

Background/Purpose:

To showcase an innovative model of community-based, midwifery-led sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care in Victoria. This model responds to recent legislative changes, enabling endorsed midwives to provide comprehensive SRH services including early medical abortion (EMA), expanding the scope of midwifery beyond perinatal care.

Approach:

Endorsed midwives in Australia are registered midwives with prescribing rights and authority to order diagnostics. Until 2023, EMA access was limited to medical practitioner-led models. In July 2023, the Therapeutic Goods Administration and MS Health removed prescribing restrictions on MS-2 Step (EMA medication), and Victoria amended the relevant Act, authorising endorsed midwives to prescribe medicines within their scope. These reforms enabled the establishment of Western Health's Melton Sexual and Reproductive Health Hub in March 2025—one of the first midwife-led SRH clinics based in the community. The Hub provides holistic, person-centred SRH care, including EMA, contraception, STI management, cervical screening, and education, led by an endorsed midwife in collaboration with local health services.

Outcomes/Impact:

Data shows high service uptake, strong consumer satisfaction, and reduced access to barriers for priority populations. This model enables midwives to practice autonomously and to their full scope of practice. The clinic offers a replicable model for expanding affordable and accessible midwifery-led SRH services across the country.

Innovation and Significance:

Endorsed midwives are uniquely positioned to lead integrated SRH care in community settings. The Melton Hub demonstrates how midwifery leadership, supported by policy reform, can transform access, equity, and choice in reproductive health care.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: Nil disclosures or conflicts of interest