

Boodjari Yorga Program in the Great Southern

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The Boodjari Yorga Program is facilitated through the Great Southern Aboriginal Health Service in the Southwest of WA. It is a wrap-around antenatal service provided to Aboriginal women, or women of any ethnic origin partnered with an Aboriginal male.

The BYP team consists of a Clinical Midwife, who provides the culturally appropriate clinical side of pregnancy care, and the Maternal Aboriginal Liaison Officer who provides the social and emotional culturally appropriate side of care. These two major team players have a unique symbiotic relationship. The BYP is unable to perform effectively without significant input from both parties.

The West Australian Handheld Pregnancy Record is closely adhered to-following King Edward Memorial Hospital guidelines, which keeps pregnancy safe and accountable.

The aim of the Boodjari Yorga Program is to guide women and their families through their journey of pregnancy, which can be quite daunting - especially for first time mums. The never-ending blood tests, scans, foreign language, and constant check-ups can be quite overwhelming.

Antenatal care is delivered in the client's home. We also provide transport and support to ultrasounds, pathology collections, Drs appointments and iron infusions. In addition to this, the Midwife provides individualised tours of the maternity unit, and childbirth education towards the end of the pregnancy.

The aim of the BYP is to ensure that the mother is in optimal condition for labour and birth, not only physically but emotionally. We have a wonderful Social Work team that the client can be referred to for social and emotional matters.

Once the baby is born, the Midwife closes off the relationship with a "close the loop" visit providing the mother and her partner a debrief session on the birth experience and have any outstanding questions answered.

The Maternal ALO continues to follow the family with the Child Health Nurse for the next 5 years.