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From: RACGP Specific Interests <gpsi@racgp.org.au>

Date: 7/5/20 12:33 pm (GMT+10:00)

To: admin@homebirthsydney.org.au

Subject: Request for GPs to refer women for homebirth services amid COVID-19 pandemic

Dear Ms Begnell,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding your concerns around the maternity care of Australian women during the COVID-19 pandemic. The RACGP acknowledges the role of privately practicing midwives in the maternity care of women who choose this model.

While the community transmission of COVID-19 remains at relatively low levels, hospitals continue to be a very safe environment for women and have made rapid changes to improve safety for women, including the provision of Telehealth and community based services.

The RACGP recognises the important role GPs have in supporting women to make an informed choice about maternity care by providing information and advice around risks and benefits and allaying concerns, to support access to safe, high quality healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic. This extends to supporting, and where requested making appropriate referrals, based on the informed choice of the birthing options for the patient.

Kind regards

Dr Larissa Roeske

Chair

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