Indigenous Birthing in an Urban Setting
The IBUS Study

This 5-year study evaluated a new Birthing on Country Service for First Nations women and families.

Our study of 1400+ women published in *Lancet Global Health* found women in the new Birthing on Country service had:

- 50% reduction in preterm birth
- 80% more women attending 5+ antenatal visits
- ~40% more breastfeeding
- fewer epidurals
- fewer planned cesareans

We also yarned with over 600 families about their health care.

Four timepoints:
- Early pregnancy
- 36 weeks pregnant
- 2 months old
- 6 months old

1,878 surveys completed.
Sometimes people want to know if their service made a difference so they compare outcomes of their service to another service. However, women with different health needs or backgrounds sometimes choose or get put into certain services. This means they might be more or less likely to have certain health outcomes even before the research intervention happens.

Those studies end up like this...

This service was too important to community so we wanted our numbers to be strong.

We used propensity score matching to see if there was a difference between services. This means we matched women in the new service with certain characteristics (like diabetes, age, education) with other women in another service with the same characteristics, then calculated how much the service impacted their individual chances of having certain health outcomes.

Our study did this:
Our study found that the Birthing in Our Community Service Closed the Gap in preterm birth for First Nations babies born in Brisbane South. This is now at similar rates to Non-Indigenous babies. More urgent work is needed across the country. Lots of First Nations babies continue to be born preterm. Many First Nations women and families do not have access to local and culturally safe birthing services.
The Birthing in Our Community Service

In five years...

Over 600 women had a 24/7 known midwife and family support worker

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New jobs for First Nations women created

- 1 Grad-midwife
- 2 Midwifery cadets
- 4 Family support workers
- 3 Community researchers
- 1 Practice nurse
- 1 Psychologist
- 2 Transport officers
- 1 Medical receptionist
- 4 Research students
- 1 Creche worker

Strong partnership between hospital and 2 Aboriginal health organisations

Community mums and bubs hub with yarning days

Let's endorse Medicare for Midwives recommendations and enable Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Services to purchase insurance for caseload midwifery. Let's roll-out this out across the country!
More details in full article: