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**From:** Helena Mooney  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 September 2019 10:06 AM  
**To:**  
**Cc:** Portfolio Committee 2  
**Subject:** Re: Portfolio Committee No.2 - Health - Northern Beaches Hospital - Post-hearing responses - 26 August 2019

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Ms Hijazi,

Thank you very much for sending this through. I confirm it is an accurate representation of what I said on the day.

The one thing I would add is that the standard I am referring to on page 32 is Standard 2: Partnering with Consumers (from the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards) as I didn't specify that in my opening statement.

I would also like to make the following point about the public Midwifery Group Practice (MGP) Program which I missed out in my statement:

Expansion of MGP had been previously frozen at 6 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) Midwives at Manly hospital and not opened at Mona Vale Hospital due to the new hospital going to be built. But then Healthscope said that they only had to provide the existing staff numbers at the new Northern Beaches Hospital, so the promised expansion never happened.

Current staffing levels are at 5.5 FTE so they are struggling to recruit and keep sufficient midwives in the program to even meet this restricted number.

Healthscope and Northern Sydney Local Health District have repeatedly told us that there wasn't / isn't a waiting list for MGP. We know from midwives and women trying to book into the program that there has been & is. We have requested and are yet to see true transparency over this, including how MGP is described to women when they book in (if it's described at all, because many women do know not about this program or its proven benefits).

The expansion of MGP at the Northern Beaches Hospital is a key focus for Friends of Northern Beaches Maternity Services as this is the optimal way for women to receive evidence-based, best-practice maternity care through the public system. ([https://www.cochrane.org/CD004667/PREG\\_midwife-led-continuity-models-care-compared-other-models-care-women-during-pregnancy-birth-and-early](https://www.cochrane.org/CD004667/PREG_midwife-led-continuity-models-care-compared-other-models-care-women-during-pregnancy-birth-and-early))

We are asking for at least 35% of all women to have access to this program, not just those classified as low risk. 35% is NSW Health's previous target as per: Towards Normal Birth. It is currently only available to approximately 11% of women.

So, again, we reiterate the importance of KPIs and transparent reporting to ensure Healthscope provide high quality, evidence-based care to women through the public system.

Many thanks

Helena