

Part 2 – Maternity Service Capability Framework levels

The Framework has been documented so that **each service level builds upon the next and elements are only repeated when there has been an increase in capability**. This has been done to reduce repetition within the document and aid readability and understanding.

Level 1

Complexity of care	
Complexity of care needs	The mother and baby have normal care needs for antenatal and post partum care
Antenatal care	Outpatient and ambulatory antenatal care available
Birthing care	No planned birthing service
Postnatal care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outpatient and ambulatory postnatal care available • Access onsite or by referral to breastfeeding support services
Emergency care	The service has capacity to provide emergency resuscitation and care to critically ill mothers and babies until transfer or retrieval takes place
Workforce	
Registered midwives/ and where registered midwives not available all the time registered nurses with access to midwifery support	
General practitioner/ general practitioner obstetricians/ eligible midwife	
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers	Access to on site or by referral
Clinical support services	
Pathology	Access on site or by referral to a full range of routine maternal and neonatal specimen collection and testing services
Pharmacy	Access on site or by referral to a pharmacist and drugs supplied either on individual prescription from a private pharmacy or through hospital imprest system
Diagnostic imaging	Access on site or by referral to routine obstetric screening and diagnostic imaging services
Maternal and child health	Access on site or by referral to maternal and child health
Perinatal mental health service	Access on site or by referral to a mental health service which can provide perinatal mental health assessment and care
Interpreter services	Access to telephone interpreting service
Allied health services	Access on site or by referral to allied health services including but not limited to physiotherapy, social work, continence advisors and dieticians
Service networks and integration	
Documented and formalised alignment within a maternity services network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented and agreed protocol with ambulance and retrieval services • Documented and agreed consultation and referral pathway to specialist, allied health and clinical support services

Level 2

As for Level 1 plus

Complexity of care	
Complexity of care needs	The mother and baby have normal care needs for birthing and post partum care
Antenatal care	Antenatal inpatient service available Antenatal cardiotocograph (CTG) monitoring available with access to remote assessment and interpretation
Birthing care	Planned homebirth (if service is offered) with established consultation, referral and transfer pathways to higher level services if required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community based • facility based 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birthing care is provided in dedicated birthing rooms in an acute facility or recognised birthing centre • The equivalent on site neonatal service capability can support planned birth for women with pregnancy ≥ 37 weeks gestation • Service capability supports access to or referral for emergency or unplanned caesarean section
Postnatal care	Postnatal inpatient service available
Workforce	
Registered midwives	
Nurse/midwife unit manager	
General practitioner obstetricians	
General practitioner obstetricians (adv)	
Clinical support services	
Pathology	On site pathology with capability to perform a range of tests including group and cross match and to provide blood products or blood substitution products within one hour.
Pharmacy	Access on site or by referral to a pharmacist and drugs supplied through hospital imprest system
Theatre	On site or access to an appropriately equipped operating theatre with requisite trained theatre staff and equipment with capability for emergency caesarean section 24 hours
Perinatal autopsy service	Access to a perinatal autopsy service
Service networks and integration	
Documented and formalised alignment Within a maternity services network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented and agreed process for consultation, referral and acceptance of women with more complex care needs within the maternity services network. • Formal agreement for access to operating theatre with equipment and staff capable of emergency caesarean section 24 hours with a level 3 service within the maternity service network. • Documented and agreed process for acceptance of back transfer of physiologically stable women and neonates from higher level service and to back transfer to a lower service.

Level 3

As for Level 2 plus

Complexity of care	
Complexity of care needs	The mother and baby have normal care needs for birthing and post partum care
Birthing care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The equivalent on site neonatal service capability can support planned normal birth for women with pregnancy ≥ 37 weeks gestation • The service can perform continuous electronic foetal monitoring in labour where clinically indicated • The service has on site facility for emergency caesarean section • The service has capability to perform elective caesarean section at ≥ 39 weeks gestation • The service capability can support induction of labour following 39 completed weeks of pregnancy • The service capability can support vaginal birth after caesarean section following 39 completed weeks of pregnancy in accordance with clinical guidelines of the relevant jurisdiction.
Workforce	
General practitioner (adv)	24 hour on-call availability for emergency caesarean section
Specialist obstetrician/gynaecologist	24 hour access for consultation purposes
General practitioner (paeds)	24 hour access to medical officers with appropriate perinatal services credentials
General practitioner anaesthetist	24 hour on-call anaesthetic availability for emergency caesarean section
Clinical support services	
Pathology	On site and on-call 24 hour pathology with capability to perform urgent blood and specimen testing and provide blood products and volume expanders
Pharmacy	Access on site but not on-call 24 hours to a pharmacy service
Diagnostic imaging	Access on site but not on-call 24 hours to routine obstetric screening and diagnostic imaging services
Theatre	Operating theatre on site with requisite theatre staff and equipment with capability for emergency caesarean section 24 hours
Service networks and integration	
Documented and formalised alignment within a maternity services network	Formalised arrangement as referral centre from lower level services for emergency caesarean section 24 hours, urgent obstetric screening and diagnostic imaging.

Level 4

As for Level 3 plus

Complexity of care	
Complexity of care needs	The mother and baby may have normal - moderately complex care needs
Birth care	The equivalent on site neonatal service capability can support planned birth for women with pregnancy ≥ 34 weeks gestation
Workforce	
Registered Midwives Nominated Midwifery clinical leader	
Midwife Educator	Access on site or referral to
Specialist Obstetrician / Gynaecologist Nominated Obstetric clinical leader	May be permanent to the service or visiting – 24 hour on-call availability May be permanent to the service or visiting
GP (anaes)/ Specialist Anaesthetist	24 hour on-call availability
(GP (paeds)/ Specialist Paeds/ Neonatologist	24 hour on-call availability
Registered Medical Officer (RMO)	24 hour on-call availability
Clinical support services	
Pathology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access on site to 24 hour intrapartum foetal scalp pH or lactate sampling • Access on site to urgent blood and specimen testing, blood and volume expanders • Blood storage facilities on site. Cross-matched blood readily available.
Pharmacy	Access on site and 24hours to a pharmacy service.
Diagnostic imaging	Access on site and 24 hours to urgent obstetric diagnostic imaging and ultrasound services
Genetic counselling/testing services	Access on site or by referral to a genetic counselling service and invasive antenatal diagnostic procedures including amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling
Adult acute care	Access on site or through formalised agreement with other local service to an adult intensive care unit
Perinatal mental health	Access on site or referral to a mental health service which can provide perinatal mental health assessment and care
Allied health	Access to allied health services including but not limited to physiotherapy and social work
Service networks and integration	
Documented and formalised alignment within a maternity services network	Documented agreement with lower level services for provision of adult intensive care services within the network (if required)

Level 5

As for Level 4 plus

Complexity of care	
Complexity of care needs	The mother and baby have normal – highly complex care needs
Birth care	The equivalent on site neonatal service capability can support planned birth for women with pregnancy ≥ 32 weeks gestation
Workforce	
Head of obstetric services	
Head of neonatology services	
Nursing/ midwifery director	
RMO filling one or more position recognised as an obstetric training position program (obstetric registrar)	
RMO filling one or more position recognised as an paediatric training position (neonatal/paediatric registrar)	
RMO filling one or more position recognised as an anaesthetic training position (anaesthetic registrar)	
Clinical support services	
Surgical services	Access on site to surgical services which can support obstetric care of mothers of normal to high complexity
Pathology	On site 24 hour blood and specimen collection service. 24 hour access to pathology
Diagnostic imaging	Portable ultrasound located in birth suite 24 hours for use by appropriately qualified practitioners
Genetic counselling/testing services	Access to a genetic counselling service and invasive antenatal diagnostic procedures including amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling
Adult acute care	Access to an adult intensive care unit
Allied health	Access on site to additional allied health services including but not limited to occupational therapy, continence advisors, dieticians and drug and alcohol services
Service networks and integration	
Documented and formalised alignment within a maternity services network	Provision of a clinical leadership role to lower level services providing 24 hour advice by a specialist obstetrician

Level 6

As for Level 5 plus

Complexity of care	
Complexity of care needs	The mother and baby have normal - highly complex care needs
Antenatal care	The service has access to a maternal foetal medicine unit
Birth care	The equivalent on site neonatal service capability can support birth at any gestation
Workforce	
Specialist in maternal foetal medicine (access to)	
Physician with obstetric expertise	
Anaesthetist with obstetric expertise	
Clinical support services	
Diagnostic imaging	Access on site to full range of diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine services including but not limited to magnetic resonance imaging and computerised tomography
Acute care services	Dedicated acute observation area on site within maternity unit
Pathology	Full range of blood and blood products available 24 hours a day
Perinatal mental health	Access to a dedicated perinatal mental health service
Theatre	Access on site or by referral to other level six service within the country with the requisite staff and equipment with capability to perform foetal surgery
Service networks and integration	
Documented and formalised alignment within a maternity services network	Statewide clinical leadership role to lower level services providing 24 hour advice by a specialist team. Initiates or provides advice relating to emergency obstetric retrieval services