

Description

Midwife Gail is Recipient of UTS Midwifery Mentor of the Year Award

Gail Colquhoun (she/her) – Endorsed Midwife and Clinical Educator, The Nesting Hub

Twitter @?gail_colquhoun

Introduction



Homebirth midwife Gail

Endorsed Midwife and Clinical Educator Gail Colquhoun has been awarded the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Midwifery Mentor of the Year for 2022.

This specific award, founded in 2012, was created to acknowledge and appreciate the role of midwives who work alongside students in clinical placement.

Over the years this award has allowed students to vote for the person they feel has educated, supported and encouraged them the most in their educational journey.

Here is Gail’s reaction to receiving the award:

Passionate and committed

Since beginning my own midwifery education at Napier University in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1995, I have remained passionate and committed to providing safe and effective evidence-based midwifery care across the continuum. I have focused much of my clinical years as a midwife to delivering high-quality clinical education, both theoretical and clinical-skills based, with the aim of creating safe, skilled midwives who are ready and willing to meet the demands that 21st Century maternity care provision brings.

The Educational Journey and The Nesting Hub

The Bachelor of Midwifery and the Graduate Diploma in Midwifery Programs focus on providing woman-centred care across the continuum, with each being made up of both theoretical and clinical components. Since graduating from university in 1998, I have worked alongside students in the clinical environment, in university lecture theatres and in clinical-skills laboratories. I have provided mentorship, education and support, in addition to providing preceptorship for new graduates and colleagues over the years.

I absolutely love what I do!



ies became fearful of going into hospitals, I
vidualised, woman-centred care. To
Jniversity,[1] and on successful completion of
Board of Australia.[2]

Within my private midwifery practice, The Nesting Hub, I now offer home-based clinical midwifery, holistic practice, childbirth education and perinatal support, from conception, throughout pregnancy, labour, homebirth, (sometimes hospital birth) and beyond, until six weeks postpartum.

Having already completed a Masters' degree in Clinical Education in 2020, and in considering the autonomy that private practice allows, I decided to offer university midwifery students the opportunity to experience continuity of midwifery care within private midwifery practice.

So far, the response has been overwhelmingly positive, from the UTS Faculty of Health midwifery team, their students and from the women, couples and families we journey alongside.

Throughout 2022, six students joined me in private practice. Of the six, two of those recruited four of my clients as their Continuity of Midwifery Care Experiences – which is a course requirement for students aiming to achieve their registration as a midwife. These four women and their families saw a midwifery student and I across their three trimesters of pregnancy, and we attended their labour and homebirth, as well as providing care for them up until six



'life-changing' by each of the families. The
her and it has given each student the insight
wish to choose this pathway in the future.

To enable this to come to fruition here in Australia, Endorsement status can be achieved by a midwife showing evidence of having completed 5,000 clinical hours across the past six years – the equivalent of three years of full-time clinical work.

The midwife must also successfully pass a prescribing course from a recognised university, given that as Endorsed Midwives we are approved to prescribe all medications within our scope of midwifery practice, as well as order blood tests, book ultrasound assessments and request other investigations depending on the individual's requirements and circumstance.

This process needs to be assessed and then approved by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. It can be a lengthy process to achieving Endorsement but it is certainly worth the endeavour.

I have never felt so fulfilled and happy in my midwifery career!

It has been widely reported that continuity of midwifery care is classed as, 'The Gold Standard',[3] and with the benefits that this model of care provides, I look forward to continuing to offer this service to women, couples, families and students living in and around Sydney now, and into the future.



Acknowledgments

Thank you to the School of Nursing and Midwifery within UTS Faculty of Health, and to their wonderful Midwifery Students for this UTS Midwifery Mentor of the Year Award. You are incredibly kind and thoughtful, and I am immensely grateful.

In addition, thank you to the Nesting Hub families who choose to journey with me, and to the many wonderful midwives, multi-disciplinary healthcare professionals and birth workers I work alongside in private practice. Grateful thanks to The Practising Midwife Australia journal and to the wonderful All4Maternity team too.

References

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Category

1. News & Views

Tags

1. continuity
2. home birth

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