

The Delivery of a new Family Birthing Centre informed by Consumer involvement and the Birth Space Design Evidence.

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ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background

- Perth Women living south of the river do not have close access to a Family Birthing Centre (FBC).
- The birth environment in a hospital has the potential to impact the woman's neuro-hormonal response provoking fear and anxiety.
- This fear and anxiety can affect birth outcomes.
- Birth outcomes continue to be closely monitored by governing bodies.
- There is growing evidence that a birth space that is designed to feel safe and calm is likely to be associated with positive and favourable birth experiences, improved clinical outcomes and a reduction in intervention.

Aim/Purpose of the project

- The aim of this project was to partner with consumers to influence and support the implementation of evidenced based practice in the area of Birth space design in a new Family Birthing Centre.

Describe what occurred and how

- Midwifery Leadership which was integral to the project.
- Consumer Working group and consumer involvement in the Project Control Group
- A thorough literature review was conducted into Birth Space Design including the domains of Fear cascade, facility, aesthetics and support.
- Architect produced FBC concept presentation, which included Biophilic design and art nouveau principles which compliment Birth space design concepts.
- Consumer consultation at all stages of the project.
- Recruitment of the MGP workforce which was integral to the FBC.

Results/Outcome

- FBC Project completion was achieved on 31.5.19
- The midwife leader was the synergy between the science, consumer and the organisation.
- The science included Birth space design and change management principles.
- The Budget evaluation tool was used by a range of independent participants and revealed a high rating for adherence to the Birth Space design domains.

Recommendations/Conclusion

- Leadership, change management, consumer partnership and evidence based practice provided a formula for true organisation transformation.