ANTE PARTUM CARE

SUBSTANCE USE IN PREGNANCY

PRINCIPLES OF CARE

The following principles should underpin care for pregnant women who use alcohol and other drugs (AOD):

- engagement and continuity of care
- specialised management of care
- communication
- cultural care
- harm minimisation
- multidisciplinary team care
- referral for specialist treatment
- referral for psychological care
- partner / family support and involvement
- access to social workers

MULTIDICIPLINARY TEAM

The WANDAS clinic involves a multidisciplinary team including:

- Obstetric medical staff
- Clinical Midwifery Consultant
- Midwives (including a Parent Education midwife)
- Drug and Alcohol midwife
- Psychological Medicine
- Dietician
- Social Workers
- Aboriginal Liaison

TIMING OF REFERRALS

AOD using women are given priority for early booking to the antenatal clinic. The WANDAS Clinical Midwifery Consultant reviews all referrals and decides on an individual basis when the first booking visit is made. An early booking is beneficial as AOD using pregnant women are less likely to engage in early or regular ante partum care. This enables first or second trimester screening, ultrasounds, antenatal blood tests, and allows referral to Drug and Alcohol treatment options to be arranged. WANDAS does not accept referrals after 36/40 weeks gestation.
CRITERIA FOR REFERRAL TO WANDAS

- Current and significant AOD use
- Abstinent from AOD, but still requiring support from specialist team / services
- Imprisoned pregnant women

ARRANGING A REFERRAL

SELF REFERRAL
Antenatal women can self-refer directly to the WANDAS Clinical Midwifery Consultant.

INTERNAL HOSPITAL REFERRALS
A consultation request referral on the MR035 is sent to the WANDAS Clinical Midwifery Consultant regarding timing of the first clinic appointment.

Inpatient referrals may be made directly to the WANDAS Clinical Midwifery Consultant. Information on the referral should include the type of AOD use and any relevant psychosocial history. Please discuss all referrals with the woman.

EXTERNAL REFERRALS
External referrals may be sent from Drug and Alcohol related services, prison health centres, and other health services or hospitals.

When an external hospital referral is sent to the Patient-flow Coordinator they will liaise with the WANDAS Clinical Midwifery Consultant regarding the timing of the first clinic appointment.

If an external referral is made to the WANDAS Clinical Midwifery Consultant directly, they will advise the Patient-flow Coordinator when an appointment is required.