



# Midwife

A midwife is a specialist healthcare professional who works in partnership with women to provide woman-centred and evidence-based maternal health care that promotes health and wellbeing during pregnancy, birth, and the postnatal (after birth) period. A midwife also provides education to women, in relation to women's health, reproductive and sexual health, and child and family health care.

Examples of responsibilities are:

- antenatal (pregnancy) care including performing clinical observations on mother and the unborn baby. Identifying where there may be concerns about the mother and newborn baby and escalating as necessary
- monitoring and supporting women during labour, monitoring the baby during labour, and medication management
- birthing the baby and identifying variances to normal birth and escalating as necessary, including managing after birth care and initiating mother and baby interaction including skin to skin contact
- advising and supporting parents on the daily care of their newborn babies and offering breastfeeding and nutritional support
- supervise student midwives and other healthcare workers and delegate activities from a midwifery plan of care.

## Start your career as a midwife

To become a midwife, you need to complete a Bachelor of Midwifery or Bachelor of Science (Midwifery) through university. These courses are 6 semesters, 3 years full time to complete, and includes 1000 hours of clinical practice, and 10 women to follow through pregnancy. Currently in WA there is one university that offers a dual degree in nursing and midwifery – Bachelor of Science (Nursing)/Bachelor of Science (Midwifery) that leads to becoming a registered nurse and a midwife. To learn more about these courses and explore the many other pathways available scan the QR code.



## Support to become a midwife

There is various support available to complete your studies offered by the Australian Government and WA Health.

These include:

- Commonwealth Supported Place
- Higher Education Loan Program
- WA Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office Scholarships
- working as a student assistant in nursing.

## Where can you work and what can you earn?

In WA, midwives can work in many areas including:

- hospitals, pre-pregnancy, labour and birth, and after birth
- visiting midwifery services
- community midwifery for home births
- midwifery group practice
- privately practicing midwife
- perinatal mental health.

Midwives are paid as per the current industrial agreement. To find out current rates of pay, scan the QR code.

## Grow your midwifery career

Promotional opportunities exist in all healthcare settings and are accessible to individuals with suitable experience, skills, and/or qualifications. Below are just a few of the possibilities. To find out more about all the opportunities available scan the QR code.

**Clinical midwife and area manager** – a senior midwife who has an interest in leadership can apply for these promotional positions. These are leadership roles that require coordination and management of a unit on a shift-by-shift basis, using advanced skills and knowledge to deliver care to women and their families.

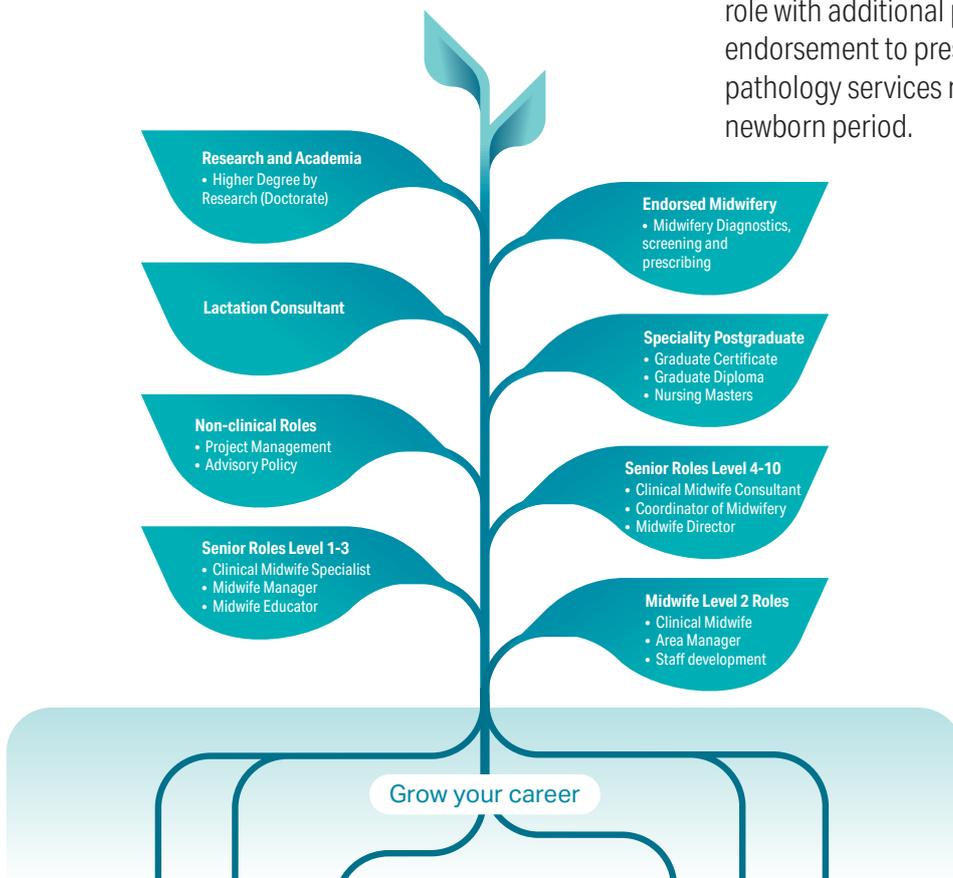
**Clinical midwife specialist and clinical midwife consultant** – these positions are available for midwives who have achieved a level of knowledge, experience, and expertise in a particular field or clinical specialty. They provide direct clinical care, education, and consultancy services, with the practitioners considered an expert in their specific field of practice.

**Education** – a midwife that has a passion for teaching may progress to being a staff development midwife or midwife educator and plans, develops, and delivers educational programs within the hospital or area of service, and supports and educates others within the midwifery team.

**Leadership and management** – midwives may develop from clinical, specialist, consultant or education roles towards a career in leadership and management. These roles practice both independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team, to deliver evidence based, women-centred care.

**Speciality postgraduate** – for midwives looking for career progression or wanting to enhance their foundational knowledge in a specialty area, consider a postgraduate qualification via a graduate certificate, graduate diploma, or master's degree to pursue. There are many courses available in areas such as leadership, education, neonatal care, mental health, child health, and diabetes.

**Endorsed midwife** – is an advanced practice midwifery role with additional postgraduate qualifications for endorsement to prescribe and order diagnostic and pathology services relating to pregnancy, birth, and the newborn period.



Where can I find more information?  
Scan the QR code to take you to our website.



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