

Wednesday, 8 September 2010

### KANGAROO ISLAND OBSTETRIC REVIEW

Health Minister John Hill has welcomed the findings of a review of obstetric services on Kangaroo Island.

Minister Hill said the review found the maternity service on Kangaroo Island is safe, efficient and should continue.

“The team lead by Professor Jeffrey Robinson, Chair of the Maternal and Neonatal Network, conducted a thorough and comprehensive review of obstetrics services on Kangaroo Island.”

“Country Health SA has reviewed the report’s 13 recommendations and is exploring the best ways to address the issues raised.”

“I’d like to thank the review team for their hard work and valuable insights into the maternity and birthing services on Kangaroo Island.

“I’m sure the Island’s residents will appreciate the review’s findings and also welcome the conclusion that the obstetric services are safe and sustainable.

The report identified the importance of maintaining the midwifery workforce and attracting medical students to the Island.

Chief Executive of SA Health Tony Sherbon said Country Health SA will work with the Kangaroo Island Health Advisory Council, the Kangaroo Island Medical Clinic and universities to do this.

“We are working with the State’s universities, including the Flinders University Rural Clinical School, to place medical and nursing students on Kangaroo Island.”

“Country Health SA has already implemented some of the review’s 13 recommendations and will work with the KI Medical Clinic to achieve the rest, including those relating to referral practices and attracting and retaining doctors and trainees.” Dr Sherbon said.

Minister Hill said, “Following this positive review, I’d encourage the KI doctors to work with the Flinders Rural Clinical School to reapply for the Federal government grant to support a registrar and also to sign the outstanding contract with Country Health SA to continue obstetric services.”

Over the past eight years, there has been an average of 29 births a year on the island, with around 60 percent of Island women choosing to stay to have their babies.