



Interim Position Statement

Gendered Language in Maternity Care

Issued: October 2023

The Australian College of Midwives interim position on gendered language in maternity care

The Australian College of Midwives (ACM) is the **national peak professional body for midwives in Australia** and supports continuous improvement of the midwifery profession. ACM is committed to the provision of respectful and safe midwifery practice. ACM acknowledges that while most individuals accessing midwifery care identify as women, some do not. Biological sex (male and female) may differ from gender identify (man, woman, non-binary, genderqueer, etc).

Midwives are encouraged to provide care in a manner that aligns with midwifery professional philosophy which at its core, is about partnering with women and people to enable them to achieve their individual health goals; throughout the reproductive lifespan to realise agency, self-determination, and bodily autonomy. Using the pronouns and language the woman or person receiving care prefers is a fundamental act of respect which is inherent to midwifery philosophy. Best practice in inclusive language continues to evolve and ACM is committed to being an ally to LGBTQIA+ persons.

The Australian College of Midwives (ACM) is currently developing a full position statement on gendered language in maternity care. In the interim the use of sexed/gendered terms will continue in ACM publications, with woman meaning anyone accessing maternity care.

Resources to Guide Practice

Rainbow Families. (2022). *Just Ask: Inclusive language for midwives and birth workers* [POSTER]. https://www.rainbowfamilies.com.au/inclusive_language_for_midwives_and_birth_workers

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The Australian College of Midwives acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live.

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