National Preterm Birth Prevention Collaborative

Dear Doctor,

The Royal Hospital for Women has joined the National Preterm Birth Prevention Collaborative (NPBPC) with over 50 Hospitals Australia-wide. The initiative is committed to reduce the rate of preterm birth and early term birth in Australia by 20% over the next 18 months and we require your assistance.

As part of the NPBPC, we are requesting that all pregnant women attending for antenatal care within SESLHD have:

- Cervical length measured at mid-trimester morphology ultrasound.
- Transvaginal ultrasound is required when:
    - A history of a previous pre-term birth exists, or
    - Where it is not possible to obtain a satisfactory transabdominal view of cervical length, or
    - Cervical length is <35mm on transabdominal imaging

Importantly:

- If the cervical length is ≤25mm between 16 and 24 weeks gestation on transvaginal imaging, please refer the woman to the Birth Unit of the hospital that she is planning to give birth in, the same day.

- Women with a short cervix ≤25 mm will be offered vaginal progesterone. Vaginal progesterone has been shown to reduce the risk of preterm birth by around 50% in women with a short cervix.

- Women with a cervical length <10mm, the options of progesterone or cerclage will be discussed with the woman and follow up will be arranged.

- Women with a history of early preterm birth, or multiple risk factors for preterm birth may also be referred to the preterm birth clinic at RHW.

We appreciate your assistance and continued collaboration. We look forward together, to improving maternal and newborn outcomes through the NPBPC.