

## Policy and guidelines comparison for a planned birth at home

The following considerations have been mapped across the state and territory jurisdictions that have a homebirth policy in place (refer to Table, attached).

- Attendance
- Appropriate experience with homebirths
- Practice requirements
- Departmental guidelines
- Information provided to woman
- Information provided to support people
- Consent
- Documentation of observations and advice
- Insurance
- Prerequisites for homebirth
- Contraindications – previous obstetric history
- Contraindications – medical history
- Contraindications – current pregnancy
- Contraindications- during labour
- Home environment
- Referral criteria
- Pre-labour rupture of membranes
- Checklist
- Distance from hospital

The states and territories with policies or guidelines for homebirths are:

- SA
- WA
- NT
- NSW

The remaining states and territories, Qld, Tas and the ACT, do not have formal policies or guidelines on homebirths. Victoria has commenced a pilot project, and both WA and Vic are considering adopting the SA model for their jurisdictions.

The Australian College of Midwives (ACM) has developed the *National Midwifery Guidelines for Consultation and Referral* to assist midwives in consulting or referring women for advice or further care from medical or midwifery colleagues.

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