

MEDIA RELEASE



**The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
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RANZCOG Backs Government Funding for Antenatal Checks

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) today stated its support to the Commonwealth Government's announcement of introducing a new Medicare item to fund antenatal checks by nurses, midwives and registered Aboriginal Health Workers in rural and remote Australia, when done on behalf of a GP or specialist.

"In light of this initiative, the College recognises two main factors for consideration. Firstly, there must be standards put in place and an on-going continuing professional development program established for all health professionals who provide obstetric, surgical and anaesthetic services", said RANZCOG President, Dr Kenneth Clark today.

"Secondly, we welcome a collaborative working relationship between obstetricians, nurses, midwives and other health professionals. Continued access to these skilled health-care professions in rural and remote areas is important in order to provide safe birthing outcomes especially for unexpected and complicated presentations," said Dr Clark.

RANZCOG agrees with Minister Abbott in the development of details of the new Medicare item in consultation with members of the profession and asks that it relates to all midwives, GPs, nurses and obstetricians.

For further information or to arrange an interview with the President, please contact:

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