



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Training and collaboration the key to optimal maternity services**

Dr Ted Weaver, Chair of the Joint Committee on Maternity Services (JCMS), stated that it's vital to keep in mind the absolute importance of providing maternity services that are best for women and which meet their needs.

Commenting on the new report *Future directions for Victoria's maternity services* released today by the Department of Human Services, Dr Weaver said that he perceived four things to be key to the provision of maternity services: what's best for women, good training, collaboration and the effective evaluation of changes.

"High quality training for providers whether they're obstetricians, midwives or GPs is a prerequisite for providing high quality maternity services," he said "and committed teamwork and effective collaboration among providers are fundamental to the best possible care."

"Changes to maternity services need to be carefully monitored and evaluated to ensure the safety of mothers and babies," added Dr Weaver.

The Joint Committee on Maternity Services (JCMS) comprises representatives from the fields of obstetrics, midwifery, general practice as well as consumer representatives.

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