

To whom it may concern,

I am concerned that practice nurses will substitute maternal and child health nurses.

I have worked with practice nurses at Sunshine hospital and have seen their limitations in midwifery practice, this would also follow through in the area of maternal and child health; they don't understand the anatomy and physiology behind patients' conditions.

Maternal and child health nurses need to have midwifery certification as so much of our practice is focussed around pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal experiences-- these follow through after the birth many times, eg. antenatal depression, postnatal depression, past history of sexual abuse, traumatic childbirths, etc. etc. Maternal and child health nurses, because of their training, are equipped to understand these conditions and how they might impact on parenting.

Carolyn Westall
Maternal and child health nurse,
24 hr mch line
DEECD