

Midwife: I'd like to now explain the Midwifery Partnership Model. Have you heard about it?

Woman: *(She may know nothing, know you respect her choices or offer other comments).*

Midwife: In my role as Partner, I went to school for 4 years to learn the skills to safe-guard the health and well-being of you and your baby.

Woman: *(She may or may not respond)*

Midwife: My midwifery profession and our partnership is based on respecting your choices. At each appointment I will write in your notes what you want and don't want. Then we will build a Birth Plan unique to you.

Woman: *(She may wish to talk about this)*

Midwife: Making choices is only one part of your role in our partnership. At the end of pregnancy, you will actively birth your baby. It's essential that you and your partner learn, practice and use both birth and birth-coaching skills no matter where you birth, whom is present or what happens during the birth. (Hand-out given) Here is a list of the skills-based resources known in New Zealand. (Our Trust will provide a list that you can locally modify with the name of each resource, a simple description of each, where available and cost.) Grantly Dick-Read, Lamaze, The Bradley Method, Birthing Better (previously The Pink Kit), Active Birth, Hypnobirthing, Hypnobabies, Birthing Within, Calm Birth are examples.

Woman: *(She might ask questions)*

Midwife: Please choose one or more of these systems. They all work well together. From 24 weeks onward at each appointment, I'll ask you what skill you have learned. Each skill will be noted alongside your choices. For example, if you learned breathing, I'll make a note of that. You're welcome to show me the breathing skills you're learning. If you've learned nothing I'll note that. From 24 weeks onward we'll collect a list of skills you've learned and will use. We'll then be able to create a Skills-based Birth Plan closer to the birth.

Woman: *(She may wish to discuss this)*

Midwife: At your birth it will become clear whether your birth choices unfold as you want or need to change. Together we'll make every effort to respect and honour your choices. If choices change you'll be totally involved in the decision making. If you are coping well and appear to be using your skills, I/others will praise you. If your partner/others are using their birth-coaching skills to help you manage well, I/others will praise him/other. If you look stressed or overwhelmed we'll look back in your notes to see what skills you chose to learn and I/others will encourage you to use your skills. The same applies to your partner/other.

Woman: *(She may wish to discuss this)*

Woman/Midwife ... Debrief with the mother, father/other after birth about choices and skills

All data from this evaluation will be freely available to NZCOM and other researchers

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Time to **strengthen**
your **partnerships!**



Time to strengthen your partnerships!

*The **Common Knowledge Trust** invites you to participate in the 2-year evaluation of a well-established protocol that will help take your partnership with your clients to the next level!*

Where did it start?

Andrea Vincent, a Nelson community midwife wanted to help improve her partnership with her clients. So, in 2000, she put in place a simple protocol that inspired her clients to become skilled to birth no matter what the circumstances.

Her practice-based research shows impressive and consistent results – families birth better and feel more in control. This methodology is easy to replicate, simple to deliver and rapidly provides positive statistics.

Working with skilled families had a wonderful side-effect - Andrea felt more supported and more inspired.

Using this protocol, we can strengthen and balance our midwifery partnership – skilled midwives working with skilled birthing families.



Why participate?

You need more support. Your college is negotiating with the MOH and DHBs to resolve the targeted issues. At the same time, you can garner much more support from your defined partner – your pregnant/birthing mothers.

How will the evaluation be run?

Each autonomous midwife, whether a community or core midwife, will have 24/7 continuity of care access to the Director of Common Knowledge Trust, just as Andrea received.

How do I join the evaluation?

To learn more come to <https://birthingbetter.org/nz-midwife-2-year-evaluation/>. There is a form for you to complete if you would like to join the evaluation.

Cost of participation

Presently, our Trust has no funding and we are asking a minimal koha to participate. This will be paid to our Charitable Trust: \$30/month for new midwives up through 4th year of practice, \$40/month for those in practice 4-7 years, \$50/month for those in practice over 7 years. We hope to get a well-balanced group.

Protocol script

The script was developed as Andrea Vincent worked alongside Common Knowledge Trust. Each midwife is encouraged to find and use her own words.

The script is delivered after the initial introductions during the first meeting. After making each point, you should acknowledge any comments but always continue with the script.