

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

**Woman:** *(She may know nothing about the Partnership, or she may offer other comments).*

**Midwife:** In my role as Partner, I completed 4 years of Midwifery training to learn the skills to safeguard 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, who 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 modify locally with the name of each resource, a simple description of each, where available and the 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. At each appointment, from 24 weeks onward, 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)*

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

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Opportunity to join a 2-year  
health promotion training

**Strengthen and balance  
your partnerships**



# Time to strengthen your partnerships!

**Common Knowledge Trust** invites you (100-150 midwives) to participate in a health promotion training on the use of a well-established protocol that grows a skilled birthing population for all births. The protocol is based on formal research done at National Women's Hospital in 1961 by H. A. Brant and an 17-years of informal 'practice-based evidence' since 2000 by Andrea Vincent, a Nelson based Midwife.

## Why participate?

You will help create a viable and sustainable societal message that it's normal and natural for all families to self-learn, practice and use birth and birth-coaching skills to work through their baby's birth journey.

A skilled birthing population provides:

- Consistent support for our Midwifery Model
- A stronger and more balanced Partnership
- Improved birth satisfaction.

## How will the training be run?

Each participant will learn:

- A specific script that defines the Midwifery Partnership
- How to notate client participation
- Specific tools to engage, inspire and encourage client participation
- Best practice for working with skilled families.

Common Knowledge Trust will give 24/7 continuity of care support to each participating midwife throughout this 2-year training.

## Known benefits

Key benefits include:

- Increases father/other participation
- Enjoyment by birth professionals
- Increase in physiological births
- Reduces maternity costs while preserving the health and wellbeing of mother and baby
- Strengthens families.

## How do I enroll?

To learn more and enroll:

<https://birthingbetter.org/nz-midwife-2-year-training-enrolment-period/>

## Cost of participation

We are asking a koha to our Charitable Trust to cover administrative costs: \$30/month for new midwives through 4th year of practice, \$40/month for those in practice 4-7 years, \$50/month for those in practice over 7 years.

## 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.

