

Birth Centre Roundtable

Event Facilitation Approach

Helen Leayr (Communication Link) - **overall facilitator**

Role of facilitator: :

- Ability to remain neutral and credible across stakeholder groups
- Skilled in managing potentially challenging or diverse audience views
- Can:
 - Actively listen and acknowledge perspectives
 - Keep discussions focused and productive
 - Avoid getting drawn into debate or justification of decisions
 - Confidently “park” contentious issues into appropriate categories for follow-up
- Supports a more open and psychologically safe environment for participants

Roundtable event outline

Purpose

To collaboratively define the vision, priorities, and design principles for the birth centre through rotating group discussions, idea-building, and prioritisation.

Agenda:

1.Welcome and context (10:00 – 11:00)

- Minister Welcome and address (10min)
- CHS presentation (15 min)
- iCBR presentation (15 min)
- Q&A following presentations – (15 min)
- Roundtable Rotations – Introduction, instructions, scene setting (10 min)

2.Roundtable Rotations – Lunch/catering is a rotation 11:00 – 1:00 (2hours – 6 tables, 20 min each)

3. Prioritising activity for boards around the room (30 min)

4. Wrap up and next steps (15 min)

Roundtable Rotations:

Format:

- Participants split into small groups
- Each group starts at one station
- Rotate every 20 min
- Each group:
 - Reviews previous inputs
 - Builds on ideas (no repetition)
 - Adds new perspectives
- Table of themes and questions below

Prioritisation exercise:

Butchers paper from the roundtables are placed on the walls around the room.

Each participant receives:

- **5 dots** → *Must Haves*
- **3 dots** → *Nice to Haves*
- **3 dots** → *Concerns / Needs Careful Design*

Participants place dots across the boards to:

- Highlight priorities
- Identify risks or uncertainties
- Surface areas needing more exploration

Theme		Core Question	Prompting questions to guide discussion	Staff assisting
1	Creating the Birth Centre Environment (Look, Feel & Identity)	What physical design features and functions are essential to create a birth centre environment that feels safe, calm, and distinctly different from a hospital setting?	• What functions are required in the space to enable to delivery of a continuity of care model? • What makes a space feel <i>welcoming, calm, safe, and supportive</i> during labour and birth? • How can the design balance <i>home-like comfort</i> with clinical safety? • What should families <i>see, hear, and experience</i> when they enter the birth centre? • How can lighting, sound, nature, and materials influence the emotional experience? • What design features help create <i>privacy, dignity, and a sense of control</i>?	iCBR – Steve Hall CHS – Sarah Watson
2	Designing for Labour, Birth & Movement	How should the physical space and infrastructure support safe, flexible, and empowering labour and birth experiences?	• What practical design elements help improve comfort and usability during labour? • How can design support the minimisation unnecessary intervention while maintaining safety? • What room layouts best support movement, choice, and different birthing positions? • What equipment and built-in features are essential (e.g. baths, bars, furniture, space)? •	iCBR – Kate Evans CHS – Yvonne Noakes
3	Supporting Families & Support People	How should the birth centre be designed to meet the needs of partners, families, and support people?	• What facilities do partners/support people need from the space? • How can the design enable active involvement of support people? • What spaces are needed for rest, privacy, or caring for other children? • How can the design accommodate different family structures and needs?	iCBR – Nicole Rogan CHS – Kelly Lang

			What infrastructure supports both connection and personal space?	
4	Cultural Safety, Inclusivity & Dignity in Design	How can the physical environment of the birth centre actively support cultural safety, inclusivity, and respect for all families?	- What design features and functions help the space feel culturally safe and welcoming? - How can the environment reflect and respect diverse communities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families? - What considerations are needed for privacy, modesty, and spiritual practices? - How should accessibility and inclusivity be embedded in infrastructure (mobility, sensory needs, etc.)? - How can design empower families to personalise their birth experience?	iCBR – Natalie Cooper CHS - Judi
5	Flow, Function & Continuity of the Birth Journey	How should the layout and infrastructure of the birth centre support a smooth, safe, and continuous journey from arrival through to discharge?	- How should families move through the space from arrival to discharge (patient flow)? - What back-of-house or operational infrastructure is needed to support staff without disrupting the environment? - How can the layout balance privacy with visibility and safety? - How can the layout, infrastructure and workflows of the birth centre support a smooth, safe and continuous journey for families and enable clinicians to deliver efficient, coordinated and high quality care from arrival through to discharge? - What adjacencies and support services (eg storage, rest areas, write up spaces) are critical to support efficient care delivery, clinician wellbeing and performance? - How can the environment enable clinicians to remain present and engaged rather than task-focused or displaced? - What infrastructure supports rapid escalation or transfer when needed without disrupting the calm environment?	iCBR – Hayley Bell CHS – Vanessa Brady

6	Catering – Lunch Break			