



MEDIA RELEASE

3 May 2004

INTERNATIONAL MIDWIVES DAY

The first baby born at Liverpool Hospital on International Midwives Day (May 5) will be given a special gift to mark the occasion and staff treated to a celebratory BBQ lunch.

“About 70 percent of all births at Liverpool Hospital have a midwife in attendance,” said A/g nurse manager, Women’s and Child Health, Sahida Chand.

“We believe childbirth is an essentially normal life event in which midwives play a vital role in providing care during pregnancy, childbirth and the newborn period.”

Liverpool Hospital’s one male midwife, Gerald Oude-Vrielink, who has been with the hospital for 14 years, said he never tires of the thrill of bringing new life into the world.

However, when his three children, aged 13 years, 12 years and 10 years, were born he decided to be present as a partner/father rather than assist as a midwife.

“It was a professional decision. You can’t make decisions if you’re emotionally involved.”

Staff in other hospitals in the Area are marking the occasion with private dinners with families and friends.

Date: 5 May 2004
Place: Liverpool Hospital
Time: First baby born
12noon-2pm Staff BBQ

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