

Process to prioritise sites for review using the Rural and Remote Maternity Services Planning Framework

The purpose of this process is to assist Hospital and Health Services in the prioritisation of rural and remote maternity services within their catchments for review.

Process

HHS identify sites that have a Modified Monash Model (MMM) rurality rating of 3 or higher (appendix 1) and meet at least one of the criteria in Table 1.

If there are multiple sites that meet criteria in table 1, the criteria in table 2 and contextual information in table 3 can be used to assist in prioritising the sites for review.

Table 1 – Key criteria

Criteria	Information source
HHS/service is considering a change in the model of care	HHS
Community/consumer interest or concerns raised in past 12 months	Official correspondence, media activity, consumer advocacy groups feedback, community advisory networks
Data indicates that a potential change in the CSCF level of the maternity services should be considered	See Table 2 for suggested list of data-based criteria and Table 3 for contextual questions and information

Table 2 – Data based criteria

Criteria	Data source	Weighting
Rurality of site/area	Modified Monash Model	MMM 3 to 7 – Included. MMM 1 and 2 – excluded
Clinical Service Capability Framework level for maternity service	CSCF Public Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSCF level 1 to 3 – included • CSCF level 4 – include if MMM 3 to 7 • CSCF level 5 and 6 – excluded
Socio-Economic Status	SEIFA (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas)	Prioritise sites from most to least disadvantaged
Percentage of First Nation population within the catchment.	Australian Bureau of Statistics	Prioritise sites from high to low
Births in catchment ¹ (Average over 5 years): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number/percentage of births to mothers who live in catchment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number/percentage who birthed locally/publicly ○ Number/percentage of women who birthed out of catchment • Number/percentage of mothers and babies who identify as First Nations people • Number/percentage of births to women who live out of catchment 	Perinatal data collection	Prioritise sites from high to low when comparing locations with similar results for other criteria ² , e.g. site that has 10 births will have a lower priority than a site that 30 births on average per year.
Distance (km) /travel time (mins by road) ³ to nearest CSCF level 3 or above maternity service.	(Online maps)	Provides context when comparing locations with similar results for other criteria ⁴

¹ Catchment to be determined by HHS, to accurately reflect patient/consumer flow to and from each service.

² E.g. site that has 10 births will have a lower priority than a site that 30 births on average per year

³ Time and distance can both be considered as road conditions, and where applicable, public transport options, will determine travel time/speed. Island and remote communities may use airplane and/or boat instead of road travel.

⁴ E.g. site that is 20 mins from a CSCF level 3 will have a lower priority than a site that is 40 mins or more from a CSCF level 3

Table 3 – Contextual questions and information

Weighting has not been applied to these criteria as the context will vary for each site.

Criteria	Information source
How well is culturally appropriate care provided? ⁵	HHS, First Nations representatives, consumer feedback, patient safety and quality concerns*
Are there patient safety and quality concerns?	Riskman, clinical governance indicators, patient surveys, accreditation, perinatal and maternity data*
What is the recruitment and retention capacity?	HHS
Site/ service has not been reviewed in the past 12 months	HHS
Was it previously a birthing service? When did it close and why? Is there local appetite to review services?	HHS

* *Links to supporting resources can be found in the Queensland Rural and Remote Maternity Services Planning Framework, particularly Appendix 3*

HHSs should review their services as a network i.e. no facility should be reviewed in isolation.

HHS stakeholders should be involved in this process, and can include but are not limited to Executives, service planners, maternity service directors (midwifery and obstetrics), representation from First Nations Health service providers, consumers, and GPs.

Development of the prioritisation process and criteria

In developing the process and criteria to prioritise maternity sites for review using the Rural and Remote Maternity Services Planning Framework the following factors were taking into consideration:

- The variability between communities due to a multitude of factors including (but not limited to) geography, demographics, cultural, socioeconomic status.
- The criteria and process should complement the Growing Deadly Families Strategy
- Weighting is used to assist in informing the prioritisation process.
 - Absolute numbers are not provided for the majority of the weighted criteria because the prioritisation is based on comparison of the sites within the HHS.
- It is intended that the criteria are viewed collectively to give a 'picture' of the sites in the HHS and not as stand-alone definitive criteria
- Criteria can be applied across all facilities (not just birthing services) e.g. ability to provide caesarean on-site should not be used as a criterion as it only applies to those birthing services as specified within the CSCF.

As noted in the Rural Maternity Taskforce Report, the data that can be analysed tells only a part of the story and requires context that is provided by the stakeholders in the rural and remote communities, and the HHSs that provide the services to those communities.

There is no 'one size fits all' process or criteria for determining which services should be reviewed. The prioritisation process has been developed to enable it to be situation specific and based on the collective needs of community and stakeholders.

Criteria that were suggested but are not included (and the reasons why they are not included) are:

- PROMS and PREMS – not currently being undertaken in Maternity. If/when they are introduced, they could be included in the data HHSs use when reviewing services.
- Perineal bundle / Perineal Care Guideline use – only applicable to birthing services. Whether it is implemented or not is not directly related to rurality of service.

⁵ For guidance on culturally appropriate care see [User Guide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health](#) (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care 2017) [Growing Deadly Families: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Materiality Services Strategy 2019–2025](#) (Queensland Health 2019)

Appendix: Modified Monash Model rurality rating for Queensland Health locations

Information below sourced from [Modified Monash Model | Australian Government Department of Health](#)⁶

HHS	Facility	MMM	MMM Rurality	Maternity CSCF	Neonatal CSCF
CAH	Atherton	4	Medium rural towns	3	3
CAH	Babinda MPHS	5	Small rural towns	0	0
CAH	Cairns	2	Regional Centres	5	5
CAH	Chillagoe PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	0
CAH	Cow Bay PHC	6	Remote Communities	0	0
CAH	Croydon PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	0
CAH	Dimbulah PHC	5	Small rural towns	0	0
CAH	Forsyth PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	0
CAH	Georgetown PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	0
CAH	Gordonvale	2	Regional Centres	0	0
CAH	Herberton	5	Small rural towns	0	0
CAH	Innisfail	4	Medium rural towns	3	3
CAH	Malandra PHC	5	Small rural towns	0	0
CAH	Mareeba	4	Medium rural towns	3	3
CAH	Milla Milla PHC	5	Small rural towns	0	0
CAH	Mossman	5	Small rural towns	1	1
CAH	Mt Garnet PHC	6	Remote Communities	0	0
CAH	Ravenshoe PHC	5	Small rural towns	0	0
CAH	Tully	5	Small rural towns	1	1
CAH	Yarrabah Emergency	5	Small rural towns	0	0
CTQ	Baralaba MPHS	5	Small rural towns	1	0
CTQ	Biloela	4	Medium rural towns	3	2
CTQ	Blackwater	5	Small rural towns	1	1
CTQ	Capricorn Coast (Yeppoon)	3	Large rural towns	1	1
CTQ	Emerald	4	Medium rural towns	3	3
CTQ	Gladstone	3	Large rural towns	3	3
CTQ	Mount Morgan	5	Small rural towns	1	0
CTQ	Moura	5	Small rural towns	1	1
CTQ	Rockhampton	2	Regional Centres	4	4
CTQ	Springsure MPHS	6	Remote Communities	1	1
CTQ	Theodore MPHS	5	Small rural towns	1	1
CTQ	Woorabinda MPHS	6	Remote Communities	1	1
CTW	Alpha MPHS	7	Very remote communities	1	1
CTW	Aramac PHC	7	Very remote communities	1	1
CTW	Barcaldine MPHS	7	Very remote communities	1	1
CTW	Bedourie PHC	7	Very remote communities	1	1
CTW	Birdsville	7	Very remote communities	1	1
CTW	Blackall	7	Very remote communities	1	1
CTW	Boulia	7	Very remote communities	1	1
CTW	Isisford	7	Very remote communities	1	1
CTW	Jericho	7	Very remote communities	1	1

⁶ <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/modified-monash-model#how-to-find-current-areas-under-the-mmm>

HHS	Facility	MMM	MMM Rurality	Maternity CSCF	Neonatal CSCF
CTW	Jundah	7	Very remote communities	1	1
CTW	Longreach	7	Very remote communities	3	3
CTW	Muttaburra	7	Very remote communities	1	1
CTW	Tambo	7	Very remote communities	1	1
CTW	Windorah	7	Very remote communities	1	1
CTW	Winton MPHS	7	Very remote communities	1	1
DDS	Cherbourg	5	Small rural towns	1	0
DDS	Chinchilla	5	Small rural towns	2	2
DDS	Dalby	4	Medium rural towns	3	3
DDS	Goondiwindi	4	Medium rural towns	3	3
DDS	Inglewood MPHS	5	Small rural towns	1	0
DDS	Jandowae	5	Small rural towns	0	0
DDS	Kingaroy	4	Medium rural towns	3	3
DDS	Miles	5	Small rural towns	1	0
DDS	Millmerran MPHS	5	Small rural towns	1	0
DDS	Murgon	5	Small rural towns	0	0
DDS	Nanango	5	Small rural towns	0	0
DDS	Oakey	5	Small rural towns	1	0
DDS	Stanthorpe	5	Small rural towns	3	3
DDS	Tara	5	Small rural towns	1	0
DDS	Taroom	6	Remote Communities	1	0
DDS	Texas MPHS	5	Small rural towns	1	0
DDS	Toowoomba	2	Regional Centres	4	4
DDS	Wandoan PHC	6	Remote Communities	0	0
DDS	Warwick	4	Medium rural towns	3	3
DDS	Wondai	5	Small rural towns	0	0
GOL	Gold Coast	1	Metropolitan areas	6	6
GOL	Robina Hospital	1	Metropolitan areas	0	0
MAC	Bowen	4	Medium rural towns	1	2
MAC	Clermont	6	Remote Communities	1	0
MAC	Collinsville	6	Remote Communities	1	1
MAC	Dysart	5	Small rural towns	1	0
MAC	Mackay	2	Regional Centres	4	4
MAC	Moranbah	4	Medium rural towns	1	0
MAC	Proserpine	5	Small rural towns	3	3
MAC	Sarina	5	Small rural towns	1	0
MNT	Caboolture	1	Metropolitan areas	4	4
MNT	Kilcoy	5	Small rural towns	0	0
MNT	Redcliffe	1	Metropolitan areas	4	4
MNT	Royal Brisbane and Women's	1	Metropolitan areas	6	6
MST	Beaudesert	4	Medium rural towns	3	3
MST	Logan	1	Metropolitan areas	5	4
MST	Marie Rose Centre (Dunwich)	5	Small rural towns	0	0
MST	Redland	1	Metropolitan areas	4	4
MST	Wynnum HS	1	Metropolitan areas	0	0
NTW	Burketown PHC	7	Very remote communities	1	0
NTW	Camooweal PHC	7	Very remote communities	1	0
NTW	Cloncurry	6	Remote Communities	1	0

HHS	Facility	MMM	MMM Rurality	Maternity CSCF	Neonatal CSCF
NTW	Dajarra PHC	7	Very remote communities	1	0
NTW	Doomadgee	7	Very remote communities	1	0
NTW	Julia Creek	7	Very remote communities	1	0
NTW	Karumba PHC	7	Very remote communities	1	0
NTW	Mornington Island	7	Very remote communities	1	0
NTW	Mount Isa	7	Very remote communities	4	4
NTW	Normanton	7	Very remote communities	1	0
SCT	Caloundra	1	Metropolitan areas	0	0
SCT	Gympie	3	Large rural towns	3	3
SCT	Maleny	5	Small rural towns	1	0
SCT	Nambour	1	Metropolitan areas	1	0
SCT	Sunshine Coast University	2	Regional Centres	4	4
STW	Augathella	7	Very remote communities	1	1
STW	Bollon	7	Very remote communities	1	1
STW	Charleville	7	Very remote communities	3	3
STW	Cunnamulla	7	Very remote communities	1	1
STW	Dirranbandi	7	Very remote communities	1	1
STW	Injune	7	Very remote communities	1	1
STW	Mitchell	7	Very remote communities	1	1
STW	Morven	7	Very remote communities	1	1
STW	Mungindi	6	Remote Communities	1	1
STW	Quilpie	7	Very remote communities	1	1
STW	Roma	4	Medium rural towns	3	3
STW	St George	6	Remote Communities	3	3
STW	Surat	6	Remote Communities	1	1
STW	Thargomindah	7	Very remote communities	1	1
STW	Wallumbilla	6	Remote Communities	1	1
TAC	Aurukun PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Badu Island PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Bamaga	7	Very remote communities	1	1
TAC	Boigu Island PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Coen PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	0
TAC	Cooktown MPHC	6	Remote Communities	3	3
TAC	Dauan PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	0
TAC	Erub Island PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	0
TAC	Hope Vale PHC	6	Remote Communities	0	1
TAC	Iama Island PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	0
TAC	Kowanyama PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Kubin Island	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Laura PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	0
TAC	Lockhart River PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Mabuiag PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Mapoon PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Masig Island PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Murray Island Medical Aid Post (PHC)	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Malakoolo PHCC (Napranum)	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	New Mapoon PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	0
TAC	Ngurupai (HORN) Island PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	1

HHS	Facility	MMM	MMM Rurality	Maternity CSCF	Neonatal CSCF
TAC	Pompuraaw PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Poruma (Coconut) Island PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Saibai Island PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Seisia PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	0
TAC	St Paul's PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Thursday Island Hospital	7	Very remote communities	3	3
TAC	Ugar Island PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Umagico PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	0
TAC	Warraber Island PHC	7	Very remote communities	0	1
TAC	Weipa Integrated Health Service	7	Very remote communities	1	1
TAC	Wujal Wujal PHC	6	Remote Communities	0	1
TVL	Ayr	4	Medium rural towns	3	3
TVL	Charters Towers	4	Medium rural towns	1	1
TVL	Home Hill	4	Medium rural towns	1	0
TVL	Hughenden	7	Very remote communities	1	0
TVL	Ingham	5	Small rural towns	3	3
TVL	Joyce Palmer HS (Palm Island)*	7	Very remote communities	1	1
TVL	Magnetic Island	7	Very remote communities	1	1
TVL	Richmond	7	Very remote communities	1	0
TVL	Townsville	2	Regional Centres	6	6
WBY	Biggenden MPHS	5	Small rural towns	1	1
WBY	Bundaberg	2	Regional Centres	4	4
WBY	Childers	5	Small rural towns	1	1
WBY	Eidsvold MPHS	5	Small rural towns	1	1
WBY	Gayndah	5	Small rural towns	1	1
WBY	Gin Gin	5	Small rural towns	1	1
WBY	Hervey Bay	2	Regional Centres	4	4
WBY	Maryborough	3	Large rural towns	1	0
WBY	Monto	5	Small rural towns	1	1
WBY	Mount Perry Health Centre	5	Small rural towns	0	0
WBY	Mundubbera MPHS	5	Small rural towns	1	1
WMT	Boonah	5	Small rural towns	0	0
WMT	Esk	5	Small rural towns	0	0
WMT	Gatton	4	Medium rural towns	0	0
WMT	Ipswich	1	Metropolitan areas	4	4
WMT	Laidley	5	Small rural towns	0	0