

# Engaging With Families and Communities

## About the Webinar

Good evidence from around the world clearly demonstrates that when families and communities are involved, mothers and infants thrive. In addition, when considering the delivery of maternity services to diverse populations, there is evidence to suggest that expectant and new mothers are highly influenced by their partner, families, friends and their local communities.

'Alloparents' are significant in families, for example grandparents, other blood relatives and community neighbours who directly provide care and support to mothers and their infants. This supports the concept that 'it takes a village to bring a child up'. However, implementing family inclusive approaches to maternity care poses challenges and an area that needs further exploration and research. The presenter uses studies she has been involved with that have included engaging with families and communities.

## About the Presenter

Mary Steen is a Professor of Midwifery at the University of South Australia, School of Nursing and Midwifery. She is also the Chair of Mothers, Babies and Families Research.