



National Association of
Specialist Obstetricians & Gynaecologists

Media release. Thursday September 24

Congratulations to new Ministers appointed in Health:

The National Association of Specialist Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (NASOG) this week welcomed the bolstered emphasis on health in the new Turnbull Ministry.

President of NASOG, Dr Mike Aitken said it was good that Sussan Ley MP was allowed to continue her hard work as Minister for Health, only now she would now be ably supported by Minister for Rural Health, Senator Fiona Nash and an Assistant Minister for Health, Mr Ken Wyatt MP.

“Congratulations to Ms Ley for retaining the very important and complex health portfolio. It is important Ms Ley be able to continue her role in ensuring good health outcomes are delivered to all Australians,” Dr Aitken said today.

NASOG has been working closely with the Minister in reviewing Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS) items, and in particular those relating to obstetrics. The peak body also calls on the Minister to ensure Australian women can continue to access the obstetrician of their choice.

“We are very lucky in Australia that women and their families can have access to the best obstetric care in the world. But we must also ensure that access remains affordable.”

The new CEO of NASOG, Ms Caroline Khalil, also applauded the promotion of Senator Nash to Minister for Rural Health and Mr Wyatt as an Assistant Minister for Health.

“Currently, we are seeing a threat to obstetric services in regional and rural Australia, with some maternity clinics struggling to maintain services,” Ms Khalil said.

“We are confident that we will be able to work closely with Ministers Nash and Wyatt to ensure mothers and their babies are not put at risk because they can not access the obstetric care they need when they need it,” Ms Khalil said.

“We need to ensure Australia can maintain our gold standard in obstetric care and that includes regional and rural areas,” said Dr Aitken. ENDS

**Media comments. Dr Aitken is available on 0438 649 683
Sue Khalil is available on 0400101109**

Please note Dr Aitken is a working obstetrician in Perth and may be with patients at the time of your call. Sue Khalil is based in Canberra.

About NASOG: The National Association of Specialist Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (NASOG) is a not for profit professional association representing specialist obstetricians and gynaecologists, the leading providers of specialist women’s health services. Australia is recognised as one of the safest countries in the world to give birth or to be born. NASOG strongly endorses our collaborative, proactive model of obstetric and midwifery care for all women giving birth in Australia. The safety of this existing model of care is confirmed by research from Australia and around the world. www.nasog.com.au