

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu ABN 74 490 121 060 Quay Quarter Tower, 50 Bridge Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Phone: +(02) 9322 7000 www.deloitte.com.a

National Audit of Early Pregnancy Assessment Services - Healthcare Provider Survey

Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form

Introduction

This document tells you about the project and describes what will happen if you take part. If there is anything you don't understand or want to know more about, please contact <u>epasaudit2025@deloitte.com.au</u>. Deloitte has been engaged by the Australian Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to undertake a national audit of early pregnancy assessment services (EPAS) as defined below.

What are early pregnancy assessment services (EPAS)?

EPAS are defined as care provided to people who are early stages of their pregnancy (from conception to 14 weeks, although some clinics provide care to people in their second trimester). People can access EPAS at an outpatient clinic (EPAS clinics) or other alternative health settings such as through midwives in antenatal wards and/or GP obstetricians.

The purpose of the project is to obtain a better understanding of how EPAS providers in Australia operate. This project aims to:

- Inform the development of strategies and programs that may improve care and outcomes for clients accessing EPAS and for women who have experienced a miscarriage.
- Encourage EPAS clinic operators to register on the National Health Service Directory and Provider Connect Australia. This will enable other health professionals to refer clients to EPAS clinics and ensure the general public can access information on these services. Provider

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Connect Australia registration will help EPAS clinic operators to ensure their information is consistently maintained and up to date

Participant information

Why have you been asked to participate in this survey?

We would like to invite your service to participate in this survey if it delivers early pregnancy care. Early pregnancy care is provided in clinics, maternity, obstetrics and antenatal units, GPs, and emergency departments. Deloitte has been engaged by the Australian Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to obtain a better understanding on how this care is delivered in Australia. This will inform the development of strategies and programs that may improve care and outcomes for clients accessing early pregnancy care. The survey will be focused on the early pregnancy assessment services your service delivers.

Do I have to take part?

If your service does not wish to complete the survey, you do not have to. If you start the survey and then change your mind, you are free to exit at any stage. Your choice will not affect your provider's relationship with government services, non-government organisations or with Deloitte. If you choose to withdraw from the study at any point in time before data has been analysed, your answers will not be included. All findings will be presented at an aggregate level i.e., they will not be attributed to individual services.

What information will be collected and how will it be stored?

Your responses will not be personally identifiable and will not be linked to your service. All information you provide will be kept private. Any data collected from this survey will be stored on secure Deloitte servers only accessible by Deloitte employees conducting this audit. This raw data will not be shared with any government or third parties.

Storage of data

Your data will be private and only used for this research. The information you provide will be deleted at the end of this project. The research that your information will be a part of will be appropriately filed, stored securely, and deleted in seven years under Deloitte's Record Keeping Policy. It will not be used for any purpose outside of this audit. For further information, please refer to Deloitte's Privacy Policy to understand how this data will be collected and stored. Deloitte's Privacy Policy can be found here.

Please note that once the survey has begun your response will be recorded regardless of whether you exit the survey. You may exit from the survey at any stage by simply closing the survey webpage. If you wish to withdraw your response and decide that you do not want your data to be included in this

research study, you may let us know by emailing epasaudit2025@deloitte.com.au. You will have until 9 June 2025 to do so. After this date, it will not be possible to remove your data because the data analysis will have been completed.

Participation risks

There are no physical, legal or economic risks associated with participation in this study.

While your data will be kept and stored on secure Deloitte networks and will only be accessible by research team members from Deloitte, in alignment with the National Statement of Ethical Conduct 2023, it is acknowledged that there is a potential risk of breach of privacy associated with the unauthorised release of personal information. It is also acknowledged that, while small, there is a risk that any information you share may be identifiable.

Human Research Ethics Committee approval statement

The Bellberry Human Research Ethics Committee has reviewed and approved this study in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2023). This Statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies. Should you wish to discuss the study or view a copy of the Complaint procedure with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the Operations Manager, Bellberry Limited on 08 8361 3222.

Questions and support

If you require support, modification to participate, or have questions about the audit, please contact the Deloitte team through EPASaudit2025@deloitte.com.

This survey has been designed to be completed once per healthcare service. As such, please answer this survey on behalf of the healthcare service that you are employed by.

The survey is entirely voluntary, and you can choose to exit at any stage without consequence. My service and I understand the above participant information and agree to participate in the survey (please select below):

• We do not agree

○ We agree

Does your healthcare service provide medical care to people experiencing bleeding, pain, or other complications in early pregnancy (up to 20 weeks)?

Your healthcare service may be an Early Pregnancy Assessment Service (EPAS) clinic, a maternity, obstetrics or antenatal unit, a General Practitioner (GP) service that specialises in women's health and / or an emergency department.

🔿 No

○ Yes

What type of healthcare facility are you employed by?

An EPAS clinic is an outpatient clinic that specialises in early pregnancy. EPAS clinics are typically attached to a hospital, but patients are not admitted to the hospital and do not stay overnight. Additional names for EPAS clinics include Early Pregnancy Assessment Clinic/Centre (EPAC), Early Pregnancy Unit (EPU) and Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU).

O Early Pregnancy Assessment Services (EPAS) clinic

O Emergency department

O Maternity, obstetrics, or antenatal hospital unit

O General practitioner

Other primary healthcare provider (e.g., clinic-based specialist of midwife in a non-hospital setting)

O Other, please specify: ______

About your workplace

This section asks about staffing arrangements at your healthcare service.

What is the postcode of your healthcare service?

Display this question:

If What type of healthcare facility are you employed by? = Early Pregnancy Assessment Services (EPAS) clinic

Which of the following medical/health practitioners are employed at your EPAS clinic? Select as many as apply.

O Nurse practitioner or registered nurse

O Midwife

 \bigcirc Endorsed midwife

O General practitioner (GP)

O Non-specialist doctor (e.g., Resident Medical Officer, Hospital Medical Officer, Career Medical Officer, Medical Registrar, General Medical Officer)

Obstetrician

◯ Gynaecologist

○ Sonographer

\bigcirc	Emergency	doctor
\smile	Linergency	abeloi

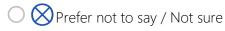
O Mental health professional (e.g., counsellors or psychologists)

 \bigcirc Mental health nurses or midwives

O Social worker

O Administrative staff

Other, please specify: _____



Display this question:

If What type of healthcare facility are you employed by? = Early Pregnancy Assessment Services (EPAS) clinic

Which of the following medical/health practitioners deliver early pregnancy assessment services at your healthcare service? Select as many as apply.

O Nurse practitioner or registered nurse

O Midwife

O Endorsed Midwife

• General practitioner (GP)

O Non-specialist doctor (e.g., Resident Medical Officer, Hospital Medical Officer, Career Medical Officer, Medical Registrar, General Medical Officer

Obstetrician

O Gynaecologist

○ Sonographer

 \bigcirc Mental health professional (e.g., counsellors or psychologists)

O Mental health nurses or midwives

O Social worker

O Administrative staff

O Bicultural health worker

O Other, please specify:

Prefer not to say / Not sure

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Display this question:

If If Which of the following medical/health practitioners are employed at your EPAS clinic? Select as m... q://QID48/SelectedChoicesCount Is Not Empty

For each type of medical professional, how many full-time-equivalent (FTE) employees work at your EPAS clinic?

Note: a FTE employee works 7.5 hours for 5 days per week. Example: If an obstetrician works 2.5 full days a week at the EPAS, that is equivalent to 0.5 FTE.

Display this choice:
If Which of the following medical/health practitioners are employed at your EPAS clinic? = Obstetrician
O Obstetrician
Display this choice:
If Which of the following medical/health practitioners are employed at your EPAS clinic? = Gynaecologist
O Gynaecologist
Display this choice:
If Which of the following medical/health practitioners are employed at your EPAS clinic? = General practitioner (GP)
O General practitioner (GP)
Display this choice:
If Which of the following medical/health practitioners are employed at your EPAS clinic? = Non-specialist
doctor (e.g., Resident Medical Officer, Hospital Medical Officer, Career Medical Officer, Medical Registrar, General Medical Officer)
O Non-specialist doctor (e.g., Resident Medical Officer, Hospital Medical Officer, Career Medical
Officer, Medical Registrar, General Medical Officer)
Display this choice:
If Which of the following medical/health practitioners are employed at your EPAS clinic? = Nurse practitioner or registered nurse
O Nurse practitioner or registered nurse
Display this choice:
If Which of the following medical/health practitioners are employed at your EPAS clinic? = Midwife
O Midwife
Display this choice:
If Which of the following medical/health practitioners are employed at your EPAS clinic? = Endorsed midwife

O Endorsed Midwife _____

Display this choice:

If Which of the following medical/health practitioners are employed at your EPAS clinic? = Mental health professional (e.g., counsellors or psychologists)

O Mental health professional (e.g., counsellors or psychologists)

Display this choice: If Which of the following medical/health practitioners are employed at your EPAS clinic? = Mental health nurses or midwives
O Mental health nurse or midwife
Display this choice: If Which of the following medical/health practitioners are employed at your EPAS clinic? = Social worker
O Social worker
Display this choice: If Which of the following medical/health practitioners are employed at your EPAS clinic? = Administrative staff
O Administrative staff
Display this choice: If If Which of the following medical/health practitioners are employed at your EPAS clinic? = Text Response Is Not Empty
\bigcirc Pipe text from previous question

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How many patients, on average, receive early pregnancy assessment services at your healthcare setting or EPAS clinic in a week?

- 1-10 patients
- 11-20 patients
- O 21-30 patients
- 31-40 patients
- 41-50 patients
- \bigcirc More than 50 patients
- O Prefer not to say / Not sure

Accessibility

This section will ask questions related to the accessibility of your service.

Display this question.

Which days of the week is your EPAS clinic open? Please select as many as apply.

	O Monday
	○ Tuesday
	O Wednesday
	O Thursday
	O Friday
	○ Saturday
	O Sunday
	○ ⊗ Prefer not to say / Not sure
Dis	play this question:

How many hours is your EPAS clinic open across the following days of the week?

Display this choice:
If Which days of the week is your EPAS clinic open? Please select as many as apply. = Monday
O Monday
Display this choice:
If Which days of the week is your EPAS clinic open? Please select as many as apply. = Tuesday
O Tuesday
Display this choice:
If Which days of the week is your EPAS clinic open? Please select as many as apply. = Wednesday
O Wednesday
Display this choice:
If Which days of the week is your EPAS clinic open? Please select as many as apply. = Thursday
O Thursday
Display this choice:
If Which days of the week is your EPAS clinic open? Please select as many as apply. = Friday
O Friday
Display this choice:
If Which days of the week is your EPAS clinic open? Please select as many as apply. = Saturday
O Saturday
Display this choice:
If Which days of the week is your EPAS clinic open? Please select as many as apply. = Sunday
O Sunday

When your EPAS clinic is closed, where can people who need early pregnancy assessment services access support? (Optional).For example, patients may travel to another nearby EPAS clinic, visit an emergency department, or wait until the EPAS opens.

Display this question:

If What type of healthcare facility are you employed by? An EPAS clinic is an outpatient clinic that... = Early Pregnancy Assessment Services (EPAS) clinic

What are the referral requirements at your EPAS clinic? (Excluding self-referral)

 \bigcirc No referrals are required to visit the EPAS clinic

• No referrals are required for patients who have experienced recurrent miscarriages, or a previous ectopic or molar pregnancy. Otherwise, referrals are required

O Referrals are required for all patients

O Other (please specify)

O Prefer not to say / Not sure

Display this question:

Does your EPAS clinic have an appointment booking system?

	\bigcirc No, it is a walk in and/or emergency service ONLY
	\bigcirc Yes, but it also allows walk-ins (
	\bigcirc Yes, and it doesn't allow walk-ins
	O Other (please specify):
	O Prefer not to say / Not sure
Disp	olay this question:

Pregnancy Assessment Services (EPAS) clinic

What is the gestation cut-off for your EPAS clinic?

\bigcirc	Under	10	weeks
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- O Under 12 weeks
- O Under 14 weeks
- O Under 16 weeks
- O Under 20 weeks
- O Other (please specify)
- \bigcirc No specific gestation cut-off
- O Prefer not to say / Not sure

Display this question:

Would the following patients be eligible to visit your EPAS clinic based on its inclusion and exclusion	
criteria?	

	Yes	No	Prefer not to say / Unsure
Patient is experiencing <u>light</u> pain and/or <u>light</u> bleeding	0	0	0
Patient is experiencing <u>severe</u> pain	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Patient is experiencing <u>heavy</u> bleeding	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Patient is clinically unstable	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Patient has a history of recurrent miscarriage (3 or more miscarriages in a row)	0	\bigcirc	0
Patient has a non- viable pregnancy on ultrasound scan	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Patient is experiencing a pregnancy of uncertain viability	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Patient requires methotrexate treatment of ecotopic pregnancy	0	\bigcirc	0
Patient with gestational trophoblastic disease (molar pregnancy)	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Patient is experiencing ectopic pregnancy or pregnancy of an unknown location	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Patient requires βhCG tracking	\bigcirc	0	\bigcirc

There is a foetal anomaly detected on ultrasound	0	\bigcirc	0
Patient has retained products of conception	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Patient has an intrauterine contraceptive device in situ with documented intrauterine early pregnancy on ultrasound	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0

Display this question.

If What type of healthcare facility are you employed by? An EPAS clinic is an outpatient clinic that... = Early Pregnancy Assessment Services (EPAS) clinic

Does your EPAS clinic have any inclusion and/or exclusion criteria not mentioned in the previous two questions? If so, please list. (Optional)

Display this question:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither disagree nor agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Prefer not to say / Not sure
My clinic is appropriately staffed to meet demand and deliver high quality EPAS	0	0	0	0	0	0
It is easy and convenient for patients to access my EPAS clinic	0	0	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
The inclusion and exclusion criteria to access my EPAS clinic are clear and well known to patients	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0	0	0	\bigcirc
There are clear referral pathways in and out of my EPAS clinic	0	\bigcirc	0	0	0	\bigcirc
Staff at my clinic are appropriately trained to deliver high quality care and treatment	0	\bigcirc	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc

To what extent do you disagree or agree with the following statements:

The psychosocial needs of patients who access my EPAS clinic are met	0	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0	0
Staff at my clinic have received training in psychosocial and emotional support capabilities	0	0	0	0	0	\bigcirc
Staff at my clinic are credentialed to perform and interpret transvaginal ultrasounds	0	\bigcirc	0	0	0	\bigcirc

Display this question:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither disagree nor agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Prefer not to say / Not sure
My healthcare service is appropriately staffed to meet demand and deliver high quality early pregnancy assessment services	0	0	0	0	\bigcirc	0
It is easy and convenient for patients to access early pregnancy assessment services at my healthcare service	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
There are defined lines of communication and accountability within my healthcare service	0	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
If needed, it is easy and convenient for patients to access translation and interpreting services.	0	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc

To what extent do you disagree or agree with the following statements:

The psychosocial needs of patients who access early pregnancy assessment services at my healthcare service are met	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff at my healthcare service have received training in psychosocial and emotional support capabilities	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0
Staff at my healthcare service are credentialed to perform and interpret transvaginal ultrasound	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc

Services

This section asks about the types of medical services and mental health supports your service provides.

Which of the following early pregnancy services are provided by your healthcare service? Please select as many as apply. If patients must travel to another venue (e.g., larger hospital or pathology service) to access the service, please do not select.

 \bigcirc Consultation, including assessment of pregnancy viability

O Ultrasound, including transvaginal ultrasound

Blood test

- O Surgical termination of pregnancy
- O Medical termination of pregnancy

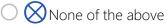
 \bigcirc Management of miscarriage (medical or surgical)

O Surgical procedures (e.g., dilation and curettage, removal of ectopic pregnancy)

O Counselling and emotional support

O Sharing of written information (e.g., leaflets explaining the condition or how to access other healthcare services)

O Psychosocial risk assessment





 \bigcirc \bigotimes Prefer not to say / Not sure

Does your EPAS clinic have the following facilities? Please select as many as apply.

Discrete waiting room, separate from maternity and antenatal waiting rooms
 Private consultation room
 Neither of the above
 Prefer not to say / Not sure

Display this question:
If What type of healthcare facility are you employed by? An EPAS clinic is an outpatient clinic that... = Early pregnancy Assessment Services (EPAS) clinic
Does your EPAS clinic follow-up with patients after they visit the service? This follow-up may be inperson, online or over the phone.

○ Never

O Rarely

Sometimes

O Mostly

Always

O Prefer not to say / Not sure

Display this question:

If Does your EPAS clinic follow-up with patients after they visit the service? This follow-up may b... = Sometimes

Or Does your EPAS clinic follow-up with patients after they visit the service? This follow-up may $b_{...} = Mostly$ Or Does your EPAS clinic follow-up with patients after they visit the service? This follow-up may $b_{...} = Always$

Do the follow-ups inquire about the patient's mental health?

○ Never
O Rarely
○ Sometimes
O Mostly
O Always
O Prefer not to say / Not sure
Display this question:
If What type of healthcare facility are you employed by? An EPAS clinic is an outpatient clinic the Pregnancy Assessment Services (EPAS) clinic

Does your healthcare service follow-up with patients after they receive early pregnancy assessment services?

○ Never
O Sometimes
O Mostly
O Always
O Prefer not to say / Not sure

Display this question:

If Does your healthcare service follow-up with patients after they receive early pregnancy assessmen... = Sometimes

And Does your healthcare service follow-up with patients after they receive early pregnancy assessmen... = Mostly

And Does your healthcare service follow-up with patients after they receive early pregnancy assessmen... = Always

Do the follow-ups inquire about the patient's mental health?

○ Never

O Rarely

Sometimes

O Mostly

Always

O Prefer not to say / Not sure

Display this question.

If Does your EPAS clinic follow-up with patients after they visit the service? This follow-up may b... = Sometimes

Or Do the follow-ups inquire about the patient's mental health? = Mostly

Or Does your healthcare service follow-up with patients after they receive early pregnancy assessmen... = Always

How are the follow-ups conducted? Please select ALL that apply.

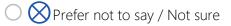
O In-person

Over the phone

 \bigcirc Via the text message

🔿 Via email

O Other, please specify: _____



Display this question:

If What type of healthcare facility are you employed by? An EPAS clinic is an outpatient clinic that... = Early Pregnancy Assessment Services (EPAS) clinic

Does your EPAS clinic do any of the following after a patient is discharged? Select ALL that apply.

O Providing transfer of care letters

 \bigcirc Writing referrals to additional healthcare services, including for mental health supports

 \bigcirc Informing primary healthcare providers of outcomes

O Other (please specify): _____

 $\bigcirc \bigotimes$ None of the above

\bigcirc	Ø Prefer	not to say	/ Not sure
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Tailored supports

This section asks about services delivered to priority groups.

To the best of your knowledge, what proportion of the patients who received early pregnancy assessment services through your service in the last month identify as the following priority groups? Please select each of the priority groups below. If you can estimate, please do so in the box. If you cannot estimate, please do not select the priority group and leave the box blank.

O First Nations
O Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)
O People who arrived in Australia as a refugee
O People with a disability
O LGBTQIA+
\bigcirc \bigotimes I am unsure about the priority groups that attend my service

How confident are you that your service could deliver appropriate and high-quality early pregnancy supports to patients who identify as the following priority groups?

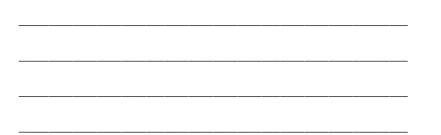
	Not confident	Somewhat less confident	Neutral	Somewhat confident	Highly confident	Prefer not to say / Not sure
First Nations	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)	\bigcirc	0	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0
People who arrived in Australia as a refugee	\bigcirc	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
People with a disability	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
LGBTQIA+	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc

Display this question:

If How confident are you that your service could deliver appropriate and high-quality early pregnanc... = Not onfident

And How confident are you that your service could deliver appropriate and high-quality early pregnanc... = Somewhat less confident

What is needed to enable your service provider to deliver high-quality treatment and care to priority groups?



Would you be willing to participate in an optional conversation on your survey responses and the supports your service needs to deliver high equality early pregnancy assessment services? (Optional) If so, please provide your email address in the box below. The conversation will be held on Microsoft Teams and used to inform a case study for Deloitte's audit of early pregnancy services. Your responses will not be personally identifiable and will not be linked your name or service.

Is there anything else you would like to share about the early pregnancy assessment services provided by your healthcare service? (Optional)

If your healthcare facility has a specific service for early pregnancy complications, is it registered on the National Health Services Director (NHSD) and/or Provider Connect Australia?

○ Yes

🔿 No

○ Not relevant

O Prefer not to say / Not sure

Display this question:

If If your healthcare facility has a specific service for early pregnancy complications, is it regis... = No Or If your healthcare facility has a specific service for early pregnancy complications, is it regis... = Not elevant

We would like to encourage you to register your service with the National Health Services Directory (NHSD) and/or Provider Connect Australia. The NHSD supports health professionals and patients by providing easy access to a central source of service information. For information on how to register, please click on the following link: https://about.healthdirect.gov.au/nhsd/about/register-with-the-nhsd.