

Birthing clinic added

Rochester and Elmore District Health Service has recently allocated a room for an antenatal clinic.

Kyabram midwife co-ordinator Karen Taylor will be overseeing the antenatal clinic, which is a first for the town of Rochester.

Before its introduction, women in Rochester and district had to see their GPs or go to Kyabram or Bendigo for birthing services.

Ms Taylor said she was delighted to provide the service for the Rochester community and have it accessible for women.

She said it had been an accepted practice to see a GP for antenatal care, but she liked to offer an alternative too.

The first visitor to the clinic was Catherine Kyne.

Ms Taylor helped her give birth to her two boys in Kyabram and said Mrs Kyne was very happy with the midwife service.

Mrs Kyne saw a midwife throughout

her two pregnancies and said it was a more personal service than with a GP.

As well as providing antenatal care, the service provides a continuation of care after the birth.

Women will have to go to Kyabram to give birth but a domiciliary service will be provided in Rochester up to five days following the birth.

REDHS chief executive officer Matt Sharp said the hospital was happy to work with Kyabram District Health Service to provide a venue for district women to attend the antenatal clinic.

"It is important to build on such relationships so that people can receive health services as close to home as possible and reduce the need for travel, which can sometimes present a problem in rural areas," he said.

"I think it is also important in terms of the midwives being able to work closely with GPs from the clinics in and around Rochester."



■ Catherine Kyne was the first expectant mum to visit the new antenatal clinic in Rochester and District Health Service recently.