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I'm excited to share with you a big announcement. As you know, I've been preparing to relocate to The Bays Hospital for some months now. The whole team at The Bays have been exceptionally warm and welcoming to us, and I'm sure your experiences will be similar when our new offices open in the coming weeks. This move will also allow for the expansion of care provided to you in a very special and unique way.

I am super-excited to announce that from January 2024, I'll be practicing collaboratively with Amy Corlass (aka "the Mornington Peninsula Midwife") at Genesis Obstetrics & Gynaecology. Having searched for the right midwife to practice collaboratively with for some time, I'm thrilled to be able to practice with Amy in our new surrounds. I can testify that Amy and I share similar women-centred care philosophies that aim to equip, empower and inform women to make their own birth choices.

Amy is an amazing person and is one of the pioneers of private midwifery on the Mornington Peninsula. Amy was among the first midwives in Australia to be registered as a Medicare-participating private midwife. Having worked in her own private practice, as a homebirth midwife, a yoga teacher, feeding choices educator, and with other private obstetric practices, Amy has a wide experience in empowering and caring for women. I can't wait for you to meet her! You can learn more about Amy through her Instagram @mornington_peninsula_midwife.

Moving forward, you will continue to have all of your obstetric antenatal appointments with myself, where my role will be to care for you and your baby throughout your pregnancy, and to help you birth your baby. This has not changed. Now in addition to these appointments, patients will have 3-4 midwifery antenatal appointments with Amy, focusing on broader concepts like birth preparation, postnatal recovery and caring for your new baby.

The other major difference with our new collaborative care model is postnatal care. Postnatal patients will now be offered a minimum of three postnatal appointments with Amy during the first six weeks after birth. We see these appointments as critical to equip and support you and baby with the best possible start in your lives together. I will continue to see you for your six-week postnatal obstetric appointment.

The team at Genesis Obstetrics & Gynaecology – Elisha and Michael - will be in contact with you regarding any changes to your upcoming appointments. We've been able to implement this new model of care at no additional cost to you. All additional appointments will be bulk-billed through Medicare.

As we settle into our new home at The Bays, Amy and I are really excited to be coming together and providing a new collaborative model for woman-centred care on the Mornington Peninsula. Thank you so much for allowing us to partner with you on this journey.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact the team at reception@genesisog.com.au, call the office on 9070 6166 or we can speak at our next appointment.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Natalie Elphinstone