



The Paediatric Society of New Zealand  
Te Kāhui Mātai Arotamariki o Aotearoa



### **Newborn Clinical Network Position Statement supporting the Model of Newborn Transitional Care in Aotearoa New Zealand.**

The Newborn Clinical Network strongly endorses Newborn Transitional Care (NTC) as the gold standard model of whānau-centered care delivery for medically low-risk newborns and their whānau. NTC promotes bonding and attachment, securing the newborn's position as an integral member of their whānau. In addition, NTC leads to increased rates of breastfeeding and a reduction in readmissions to the hospital.

Newborn transitional care provides an alternative to the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) admission with associated separation of the newborn from their whānau, as it provides neonatal care in addition to standard postnatal care. These low-risk newborns are primarily late-preterm, and those affected by maternal complications, and currently represent about 20% of all admissions to NICU/SCBU. This cohort of newborns require primarily feeding support, and whilst NICU/SCBU admission ensures their medical safety, removal from their whānau compromises other aspects of their well-being.

Newborn infants have a right to be cared for by their whānau, however in comparison to other countries, Aotearoa has not introduced this model of care at a national level in order to enable parents to remain with their newborns. NTC delivers an improved model of care where wellbeing and medical safety can be met in a holistic, whānau-centered manner. This includes communication with the wider community throughout the discharge process with the aim of delivering equitable, culturally safe, and holistic care, setting whānau on the trajectory for improved wellbeing and health outcomes, not just in the newborn period, but throughout their life course.

\*Last updated November 2024

“Tamariki in Aotearoa flourish in health and wellness”