

# A Client Panel for Pregnant Women in the Netherlands

## A client panel to give pregnant women a voice in the maternity system is launched in the Netherlands

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A brand new client panel for pregnant women will be launched in the Netherlands by AVAG and NIVEL in September 2011.

### Why do we need a client panel for pregnant women?

- Information is lacking on what clients and their partners want and need
- Knowledge about expectations and experiences of clients and their partners is essential for optimal care with a true client centred approach
- Pregnant women need to be heard in periods of change in the organisation of maternity care (e.g. compare Canada/UK)
- Pregnant women are a substantial proportion of health care users



### Maternity care in the Netherlands in a nutshell

- 180.00 to 185.000 births per year (pop: 16 million)
- Concerns about relatively high % of perinatal mortality
- Focus on reorganising the care system
- Concerns about continuity of care and continuous support during labour
- Reduction of the number of homebirths

### The panel

- The group of clients will include women in the fertile age range who want to become pregnant, are pregnant or who have recently had a baby
- In total 1000 women will be recruited through primary care midwifery practices and hospitals
- Members of the panel are asked to complete three questionnaires: early and late in their pregnancy and after they have given birth
- Participation stops following the third questionnaire
- A limited number of panel members will also be asked to participate in education for midwifery students
- The panel needs to be 'refreshed' at a regular rate

### Research themes, a selection:

- Expectations about and experience with prenatal screening; influence on course of pregnancy and experience of pregnancy.
- Benefits of the use of a birth plan and experiences with birth plans
- The need for shared decision making on medical interventions such as pain medication and episiotomies
- Experiences with transfer between care givers

### The launch

- A competition is organized during the Summer of 2011
- Care providers are asked to formulate the ultimate question they would like to ask members of the panel
- Contestants need to explain how they will use the results of 'their' question
- On 14 September the winner will be announced at the 150th anniversary of the Midwifery Academy Amsterdam/Groningen
- For more information: [www.AVAG150jaar.nl](http://www.AVAG150jaar.nl)

