

Werribee Mercy Hospital is part of Mercy Health, a Catholic organisation grounded in a 2,000-year tradition of caring for others. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Health employs 6,000 people who provide acute and sub-acute hospital care, aged care, mental health programs, maternity and specialist women's health services, early parenting, home care services and health worker training and development. Mercy Health employs people from many cultures and backgrounds who, irrespective of their beliefs, share a common bond to care for those in need.



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Pregnancy and related services at Werribee Mercy Hospital



Werribee Mercy Hospital is a general hospital. Our staff specialise in and treat a range of conditions including the care of pregnant women and newborn babies.

What is a general hospital?

A general hospital provides a range of health services to a local community. These may include general maternity, women's health and newborn and neonatal services.

General hospitals are supported by specialist hospitals for more complex care needs.

What is a Catholic hospital?

Catholic hospitals may be public or private. Werribee Mercy Hospital is a public hospital.

A Catholic hospital follows the teachings of Jesus Christ, and those of the Catholic Church. This means that we believe in upholding and promoting the dignity of the whole person from conception to natural death. We partner with our patients, their families and loved ones to provide the best care possible.

Who do we care for?

We care for women and babies. We care for people respecting their faith, culture and beliefs. We believe that each person is unique with their own background, experiences, culture and spirituality. Each person will be treated with respect, dignity and compassion and will have access to the best services we can provide.

What services are not provided?

The Catholic Church values human life from conception. Therefore, in accordance with the principles outlined above we do not provide direct termination of pregnancy or direct contraceptive procedures.

Contraception

Werribee Mercy Hospital does not perform a procedure where the direct intent/goal is to make a person temporarily or permanently incapable of having children.

There are, however, some procedures or medications that are indicated medically to treat specific diseases and also affect a person's ability to have children in the future. The hospital may provide such procedures and medications since their primary purpose is to treat a disease.

There are also some lifesaving procedures required in emergency situations which may result in a woman's inability to have children in the future (such as an emergency hysterectomy to control haemorrhage). Such procedures will always be performed to save the life of the woman concerned, even if this means that she will be unable to have children in the future.

Termination of pregnancy

Werribee Mercy Hospital does not offer direct termination of pregnancy.

We respect every woman's right to follow her conscience in medical decisions, including her right to request a termination of pregnancy.

In order to achieve the best possible outcome we will ensure she has all the information she needs to attend another facility that will provide her with appropriate counselling and clinical services to help her with her final decision and provide ongoing support.

If a woman's life is in danger we will always provide life-saving treatment even if the unintended consequence is the loss of her baby.

We hope this information brochure assists you in understanding our role in providing women's services.