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## Torie Finnane Foundation *for women & babies*

*A report showcasing activity  
throughout 2024 and the plan for 2025*



December 2024

# Thank you from the TFF team



This year has been our strongest since inception and, whilst we will always grieve the loss of Torie, we feel fortunate that TFF allows us a pathway to always remember her positive influence in our lives.

We reached our fundraising target of \$500,000 through the Gala Ball, TFF Rugby Day and the generosity of community giving. **THANK YOU to everyone** who continues to support us through these activities and a particular shout out to Nick McCarthy for putting himself out there to take part in Wagga Takes Two where he raised tens of thousands for TFF!

Donations have enabled TFF to support 217+ professional development opportunities across 23 locations in the three largest regional local health districts Hunter New England, Murrumbidgee and Western New South Wales. The detail is outlined on the next page.

2025 is looking to be even bigger as we have committed to at least two big investment projects:

1. Doubling the capacity of the Orange Base Hospital Special Care Nursery.
2. Providing a much-needed Centralised Foetal Monitoring machine for Southern NSW.

In addition to this, we plan to provide 400 + professional development opportunities to midwives and special care nursery staff across 25+ locations throughout 2025.

Our key intentions remain - to provide longevity in our support, develop strong strategic partnerships and continue building to be considered a key enabler to uplift midwives.

We're sending all our gratitude and thoughts as we finish 2024 and we look forward to 2025.

With deep appreciation,

Liam & Geoff  
(Co-Chairs TFF)

**Mark Saturday  
1 Nov, 2025 in the  
calendar.  
Our first Sydney  
Gala Ball!**



# What TFF has enabled in 2024



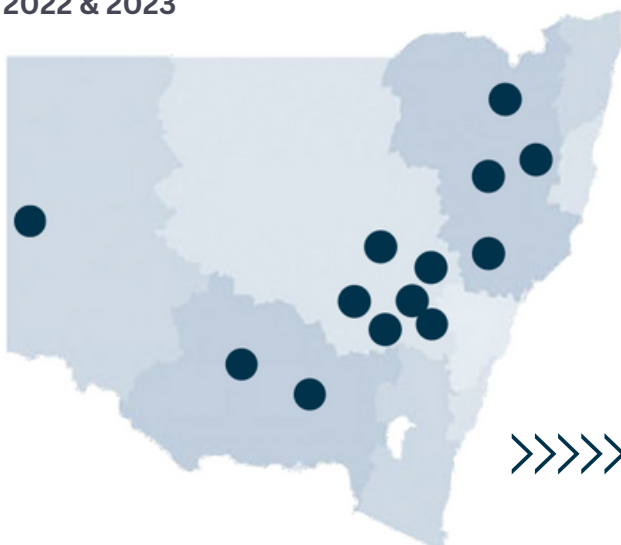
- **We continued to upskill midwives in basic and advanced level maternity safety by providing 30 fully funded scholarships to AMaRE, an internationally recognised educational body.**
  - 4 x midwives from Glen Innes, Muswellbrook and Narrabri took part in a 2-day *Preparation in Maternity Safety (PIMS)* course delivered in Sydney. The course covers the basic knowledge and skills needed to provide quality maternity care. More midwives with this basic training will enable a greater level of consistent care to more expectant mothers in regional areas and lessen the reliance/burden on a small group of more experienced midwives.
  - 26 x midwives from each of the three Local Health Districts took part in a 2-day *Advancing in Maternity Safety (AIMS)* course delivered in Sydney. This enables a greater understanding of the complexities of childbearing and how to care for women experiencing challenges. More midwives with this knowledge will ultimately improve outcomes for women and babies across the region and lessen the reliance/burden on a small group of experienced midwives.
- **We provided the opportunity for more midwives to have access to third-trimester ultrasound training by bringing expert training to the region** (and taking away the stress of travel and back-filling roles whilst midwives travel away to training).
  - 24 midwives from Tamworth, Singleton, Narrabri, Glen Innes, Moree and Inverell took part in a custom 1x Day intensive course delivered locally by Aust Institute of Ultrasound. This training and knowledge allows for better detection of growth difficulties and ensures better outcomes for babies. Midwives with additional ultrasound skills will enable more women to be supported and detect further support needed in the final stages of pregnancy.
- **We supported the delivery of internationally recognised (and locally needed) neonatal resuscitation and stabilisation training called S.T.A.B.L.E.**, the most widely implemented neonatal resuscitation program in the world.
  - 40 nurses and midwives from Moree, Narrabri, Gunnedah, Ashford, Armidale, Glen Innes, Inverell, Scone and Tamworth took part in the intensive S.T.A.B.L.E course. The more midwives and nurses with this knowledge will see greater outcomes of survival for newborns delivered with difficulties in regional areas. The earlier resuscitation and stabilisation happen, the greater the opportunity for survival and success in the entire recovery process.
- **We provided access to knowledge to further develop basic obstetric lacerations training.**
  - 25 midwives across Wagga Wagga and Griffith were able to continue their access to the platform Gynzone where online courses and information about all aspects of surgical repair of birth lacerations are available at any time. This upskilling increases the ability to diagnose, anaesthetise and repair birth lacerations as well as provide safe surgery practices to provide more consistent care to women in the birthing process and postnatal recovery.
- **We supported the uplift in breastfeeding and lactation support allowing for midwives, mothers and babies to feel more confident in their experiences.**
  - Scorpio Breastfeeding Resources were distributed to each maternity site across Murrumbidgee Local Health District. This allowed every midwife (140) in the region to have ongoing access to resources to facilitate interactive, multidisciplinary breastfeeding education. More midwives offering consistent communication and support will enable stronger mothers and babies.

# What TFF has enabled in 2024

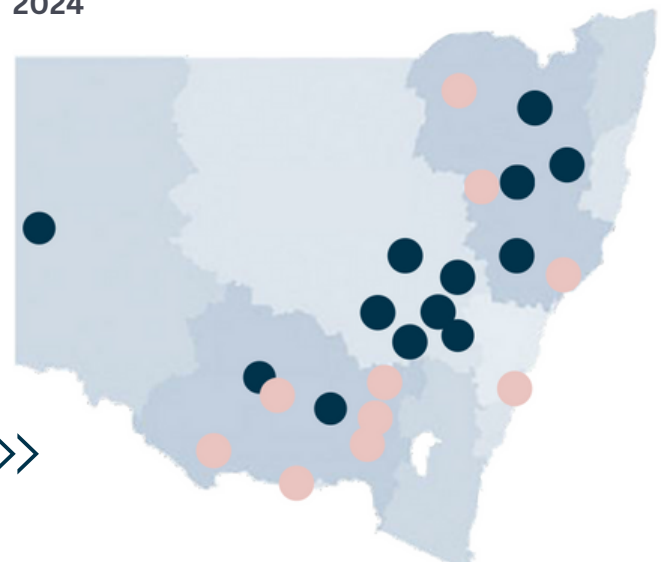


- **Provided necessary training equipment for midwives and special care nursery to feel more prepared when supporting women and babies (funded \$7,000+)**
  - The Foundation funded educational resources to Mudgee maternity service in Western NSW LHD which included resources from Birth International:
    - Mama Natalie Complete
    - Childbirth Model Set with Flexible Pelvis
    - Foetal Monitoring and Labor Progress Model Set
    - Cervix Examination Set
    - Breast model
    - Small lactating breast model
- **Provided the opportunity for midwives and special care nursery staff to deepen their knowledge/skills, connect with others experiencing similar situations as well as a chance to feel supported and recognised in their roles.**
  - 5 x midwives from Western NSW LHD attended *Every Week Counts: Preterm Birth Prevention and Safer Baby Bundle NSW Forum* held in Sydney.
  - 6 x midwives (2 x Western NSW LHD and 4 from Hunter New England LHD) attended the NSW College of Midwives Conference in Kiama.
  - 30 x midwives from Western NSW LHD attended the IMPROVE workshops in Dubbo and Orange (partly funded by TFF). This training allows midwives greater knowledge development around how to assist families with grief related to birth trauma.
- **Created a partnership with the Australian College of Neonatal Nurses (ACNN) to double the amount of 'Babies in the Bush' conferences delivered in 2024.**
  - 57 x midwives and special care nursery staff attended the *Babies in the Bush* conferences in Orange and Wagga Wagga (27 in Orange and 30 in Wagga). Attendees were from across Wagga, Albury, Wodonga, Orange, Bathurst, Dubbo, Liverpool, Katoomba and Shoalhaven areas. This education forum provides the support they need to provide the best care for premature and sick babies in regional areas.

Locations in regional NSW where TFF supported midwives throughout 2022 & 2023



Locations in regional NSW where TFF supported midwives throughout 2024





# Hear from the frontline

*“The S.T.A.B.L.E education day was amazing! Gaining new knowledge and reinforcing prior knowledge on the stabilisation of unwell newborns prior to transfer was vital in relation to where I work. Being a rural midwife requires me to be a jack of all trades and know how to escalate care quickly to ensure our babies are in the right place for optimal care. Without the TFF scholarship to support this education being brought to our rural sites, I would not be able to attend the day and further my knowledge and skill set.*

*Thank you TFF for the amazing work you do and for acknowledging the amazing work we do as midwives!”*

Tracy Barnden, Midwife, Glenn Innes

*“The (PIMS) course was also extremely valuable for my clinical practice with the provision of both information and hands-on experience in dealing with the maternal emergencies. Furthermore, this course provided an extensive manual which I have flipped through regularly when seeking more knowledge or to clarify deeper understandings. I am so grateful to the TFF for allowing me to attend these worthwhile experiences. As a graduate midwife this exposure not only benefits my practice but allows networking and discussions with other midwives and professionals in the Obstetric and maternity space.”*

Heather Thomas, Midwife, Glen Innes

*“This access to education (Gynzone) has allowed every clinical educator in our region to either be working towards or has completed perineal competency. It means we can do so much more.”*

Sandra Forde, Midwifery Manager, Murrumbidgee

*“This (Babies in the Bush) was a wonderful workshop, empowering for nurses and midwives and jam packed with so many valuable sessions”*

Babies in the Bush recipient, Orange, NSW (see pic of group at Babies in the Bush Orange 2024)



# Our Plan for 2025



**For the first time**, TFF has committed to supporting the delivery of two large and significant projects throughout 2025, further strengthening Western NSW and Southern NSW regional areas.

## 1. Expansion of the Orange Base Hospital Special Care Nursery

- This will enable the nursery to double its capacity and support babies facing difficulties born in the area as well as those returning from metropolitan hospital care (before they return home).

*“The proposed expansion would double our capacity to 8 babies, and this should provide certainty for women who are wanting to deliver their babies here in Orange, and also means that babies transferring back from Metropolitan Centres can do so at the right time. This expands our service and gives greater support to our community.”*

Dr Paul Bloomfield, Paediatrician and Head of Dept at Orange Health Service

## 2. Centralised foetal monitoring machine for Southern NSW

- This will enable greater expertise to support women and babies at any time in their pregnancy journey to have access to real-time heart monitoring information and ensure midwives operate less in isolation.

*“The CTG systems....improves the management of women with complex pregnancies. It opens lines of communication between sites meaning there is a multi-disciplinary, team approach to the care of the woman which reduces fatigue levels with our midwives....It empowers our staff through linkages with other services. Importantly it’s about providing care close to home.”*

Rebekah Bowman, Midwifery Manager, Southern NSW Local Health District

TFF has committed \$350,000 from existing funds to these projects and plans to raise the remainder through fundraising efforts and sponsorships.



Pic: TFF acknowledged midwives on International Day of the Midwife in May 2024

# Our Plan for 2025



In addition to these two key projects, 2025 will see us supporting more midwives and special care nursery staff across more locations and Local Health Districts:

- Hunter New England LHD
- Murrumbidgee LHD
- Western New South Wales LHD
- Far West New South Wales LHD
- Southern New South Wales LHD

**We intend to support 400+ professional development opportunities across these regions** and we are continuing to define more areas of support that will increase these numbers and, ultimately provide greater support to regionally based women and babies.

Some of the activities TFF will support include:

- Continuing to:
  - support the delivery of the S.T.A.B.L.E course to increase knowledge and practices for neonatal stabilisation and training across more regions.
  - provide opportunity to the AMaRE courses to support upskilling in maternity safety practices.
  - support the uplift in breastfeeding and lactation support through a range of activities
  - provide access to online education enabling greater knowledge about safe and effective laceration practices.
  - provide opportunity to attend conferences which educate and support wellbeing of midwives (ie. ACM conferences and Spinning Babies conference)
  - support the delivery of third trimester ultrasound training
- Enabling the delivery of important Domestic Violence and Trauma based support training so more midwives can identify and provide support to mothers and babies in these situations.
- Placements to metro hospitals for regionally based midwives to learn at an educational hospital. Discussions have already started with RPA to place 1-2 midwives from Western NSW LHD as well as Centenary Hospital to place 1-2 midwives from Murrumbidgee LHD.
- Equipment to support midwives in how they engage and support women and babies.



Pic: Midwives at the ACNN Babies in the Bush Wagga Wagga program in Oct 2024





# Events for 2025

## January 26 - Top of Oz

Come join us or support the team (most of them are kids under 10!) to climb Mt Kosciuszko as we remember Torie and consider what more we can do to support our invaluable midwives and special care nursery staff. Details on the [TFF website](#).

## March 22 - Lunch with the Ladies

As the Gala Ball will not be in Orange in 2025, an opportunity to come together to acknowledge Torie and raise awareness of the needs of our midwives. We're working on a possible Golf Day to happen the day before so the men can come together as well! Keep a look out on our socials.

## Late June/Early July - Torie Finnane Foundation Rugby Day

Held in Orange, this is a great day where we're very grateful to partner with the Orange Emus Rugby Club to acknowledge TFF and raise more awareness about how we support midwives.

## November 1 - Torie Finnane Foundation Ball

Come join us for our first Gala Ball to be held in Sydney at Royal Randwick Racecourse! Look out on our socials for ticket information.

**If you're keen to host an event throughout the year, please be in touch and we will provide any support that we can. We'd love to highlight it on our website and socials as well.**

## Thank you Nick McCarthy and Melanie Hale!

Wagga Wagga local celebs, Nick McCarthy and Melanie Hale, took part in the 2024 Wagga Takes Two, and \$50,000+ raised for TFF. This fundraising included the first Golf Day for TFF in Wagga Wagga on Friday 1 Feb,

Thank you so much for all this effort Nick and Mel! We're so grateful for this support!







THANK  
YOU