Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Bill 2015

The Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Bill 2015 was introduced to Parliament on 1 September 2015 and the *Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Act 2015* (the Act) took effect from 23 December 2015.

The purposes of the Act is to confirm the minimum requirements for:

- nursing and/or midwifery staffing ratios in public health services; and
- the associated compliance reporting.

Previous Amendments included the requirement for health services to make a public disclosure related to their mixed wards and birthing suites.

Amendments to the Act were last implemented on 1 July 2022

Amendments to the Regulations reflect current practices and provide consistency across hospitals as to the criteria and requirements services must considered in determining appropriate staffing requirements for the delivery of safe and quality care.

If you would like to know more about the Safe Patient Care Act go to https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/health-workforce/nursing-and-midwifery/safe-patient-care-act. A copy of the legislation is available on the Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents website www.legislation.vic.gov.au.

At Colac Area Health – Acute Services are provided via a mixed ward incorporating the Acute and Maternity subunits. Day Services also form part of our Acute Services.

Name of mixed ward:	**Acute Services**
The total number of occupied beds:	20 (18 Acute plus 2 maternity)
The different ratios that apply for Inpatient services	
ACUTE	**MIDWIFERY**

Morning shift: 1 nurse to 6 patients, 1 nurse in charge	Morning shift: 1 midwife to 4 patients, 1 nurse/midwife in charge
Afternoon shift: 1 nurse to 7 patients, 1 nurse in charge	Afternoon shift: 1 midwife to 4 patients, 1 nurse/midwife in charge
Night shift: 1 nurse to 10 patients	Night shift: 1 midwife to 6 patients.
The expected number of occupied beds in ACUTE	18
The expected number of occupied beds in MIDWIFERY	2
Day Services	Haemodialysis - 3 chairs 1 nurse to 3 patients for a morning and afternoon shift Day Oncology -4 chairs 1 nurse to 3 patients for morning shift Expected occupancy in each area is 3 chairs
Average occupied BIRTHING SUITES	1 TOTAL BIRTHS: = 51 March 1 to August 31 2022