**Transcript**

***Dr Mary-Ann Davey – Promoting normal birth***

I’m concerned that around a third of all women who give birth in recent years in Australia are doing so by Caesarian section. While that’s a relatively safe operation it does carry increased risks compared with normal birth. At the time risks of the operation the mother takes longer to recover from the birth and it also carries risks with problems of the placenta in the next pregnancy.

Much of my research is about finding ways of reducing the Caesarian rate and that means we’ve really got to change the way that we care for women. So examples of the things that I am looking at are perhaps changing, providing special care for women in earlier stages of labour to reduce their anxiety and hope that that improves their experience of labour and reduces the need for Caesarian section, or perhaps reducing the number of inductions of labour when there’s no medical indication.

Reducing the number of Caesarians will have a number of benefits. The women will, it will improve the health of mothers and babies in the current pregnancy, it’ll prevent complications, some complications in subsequent pregnancies and it’ll save a lot of money from the health dollar.