



Ruwani

Ruwani* was facing her new life in Australia with a toddler, pregnant with her second baby and experiencing the stress of her marriage being put under many financial pressures.

Her family had no social security or safety nets – including access to free healthcare and her husband had no work rights at the time of arrival.

“This experience of being pregnant was so much more scary than with my first baby. This time I could not see my family GP because I did not have money to pay for appointments. And when the hospital told me I would have to pay for my blood tests and scans I did not know what to do. And I was very worried that all the stress would harm the baby.”

Through local refugee organisations, Ruwani was referred to ASRC Health. We were able to line up a doctor for continuous care, immunisations, a social worker to support her in hospital before and after delivery, postnatal nursing care and supplies, as well as counselling for her and her partner.

“ When the nurses from ASRC called me and said I could see a GP there for free I felt relieved. They said I could see a lady doctor at ASRC which was very good as it is not appropriate in my country and religion to see a man doctor.

With all the stress of not having doctors and having no money, my husband and I started to have more problems. We are okay now but for a while it was very bad. The doctor and nurses in ASRC organised for us to get counselling and other help. All of ASRC helped us to get through this very bad time.”

*Name changed to protect the identity of people seeking asylum