



Coast doctor invited to China

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IT has become a labour of love for Australian women and now the Chinese are adopting it, too.

The success of water births at John Flynn Private Hospital, Tugun, has reached the world's most populated country after a team of three went there for a four-day visit to implement a birthing program and service.

While water birthing has been tried before in China in places such as Beijing, it has not been routine practice.

Obstetrician Dr Shiri Dutt and his team – midwife Sally Roberts and practice manager Tammi Mitchell – were invited by the Baijia Women and Infant Hospital Chain Investment Management consortium to participate in the inauguration of the water birth centre at the Wenzhou Oriental Maternity Hospital in southern China.

The consortium manages private maternity hospitals throughout China and aims to make water births more avail-

able to women there.

Dr Dutt and his team helped the staff achieve their first water birth for the region and the locals can now continue providing the service on their own.

“There is a big demand for alternative services (in China) that were otherwise not available before,” Dr Dutt said.

He said the service was suitable only for women with low-risk pregnancies, both here and in China.



Shiri Dutt at John Flynn Hospital with three babies born through water births