



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is an academy and when was the Celebration of Birth Doula Academy established?**

An academy is an organisation or association intended to protect and develop an art, science, language or a school that teaches a particular subject or trains people for a particular job. The **Celebration of Birth Doula Academy** holds the vision for educating, protecting and developing sacred birthing and post-partum practices through the training of doulas to support women, babies and families during the transformational time of becoming parents.

Anna Watts is the founder of the Celebration of Birth Academy; she is a Childbirth Educator, Doula Trainer and Counsellor who has been working with pregnant and birthing women for over 30 years and established the Sacred Birth Doula Training in 2011. The Celebration of Birth Academy is a private training establishment and as such receives no government funding.

### **How are the Celebration of Birth trainings different to other trainings?**

The **Celebration of Birth Doula Academy** trainings have the foundation of Anna's many years' experience as a Childbirth Education, Doula Trainer & Mentor and Pre-natal Yoga Teacher Trainer. The major differences in the Celebration of Birth courses are the face-to-face, educational, experiential and personal discovery/healing components, which we believe are essential when working in this intimate and sensitive area with pregnant women and their partners. **Plus** the ongoing **PERSONAL MENTORING** as you launch your doula career and begin to attend births.

There is an active private Facebook Group for Celebration of Birth Doulas to share experience, ideas and ask questions relating to doula work of the more experienced doulas in the group. Students are added to the group as soon as they have completed a face-to-face module of the training.

Many of the students who choose to train with Celebration of Birth are interested in the mother-centred holistic approach, as well as the sacred birthing wisdom offered in the training. In addition to Anna's wide pregnancy and birth experience she also holds Certificate IV in Training & Assessment which qualifies her to offer training to recognised standards in Australia. She is a senior teacher with Bliss Baby Yoga courses, through Bryon Yoga Centre (a local RTO), on their Pre-natal & Women's Yoga trainings.

### ***Do I need any previous experience in pregnancy and birth to begin training as a Doula?***

No previous qualifications are necessary to join the training, apart from a desire to support and empower women in their choices for a fulfilling birth experience. You can train as a Birth or Post-natal Doula to begin your new role or to expand your existing knowledge and services in the area of pregnancy and birth. The courses are also a perfect complement to many other professions, such as Pre-natal Yoga, Naturopathy, Massage Therapy, Women's Health etc.

We have students who have done other doula training programmes and then decided to join the Celebration of Birth face-to-face training. Feedback from doulas who have previously undertaken on-line or distance training includes reporting the face-to-face, group experience as *"a deepening of my birth knowledge and personal experience as a doula"*. Also – *"Great for a Doula Refresher, for new Doulas-to-be and also anyone who works with pregnant women and would like more awareness and understanding of the sacredness of birth and how to be with a woman and her partner on their journey."*

### **Is Doula an accredited or Government recognised profession in Australia?**

At the present time Doula as a profession is not regulated in Australia, nor in other countries around the world. There is no national or international body that recognizes a standard of training for Doulas.

The Celebration of Birth Academy Certificate is in-line with other doula training organisations such as Childbirth International or DONA. The Certificate of Attendance is issued on completion of the face-to-face training, with the Certificate of Completion once you have completed all the course requirements, including attendance at 3 births as a student doula. From a legal perspective a doula is not practicing as a medical professional and - as long as you are practicing under the guidelines covered in the training - have no legal liability with clients.

### **How do I find pregnant women for the required 'Trainee Birth' attendance?**

Once you step into this new area of holistic pregnancy and birth care and complete the face-to-face module of training, you will be surprised how naturally pregnant women 'gravitate' towards you. Where to find new clients is covered in the training, as well as first steps in marketing yourself as a Doula.

### **What is the Refund or Cancellation Policy?**

The **Cancellation Policy** is stated on the website, in the On-line Shop under payment instructions, as follows –

#### **CANCELLATION POLICY**

Registrations are transferable up to 30 days prior to commencement of training. You may transfer your registration to another person not already enrolled in the training during this time.

Cancellation more than 60 days prior the training, will receive a full refund of all monies paid, LESS a \$75 administration fee.

Cancellation between 60 and 30 days prior to the training, will forfeit the deposit plus 50% of balance of fees due/full payment.

Cancellation less than 30 days prior to the training, will be liable for the full course fees.

In exceptional circumstances, cancellation within 30 days of the training, will only receive a refund at the discretion of the organisers if the place can be filled.

If you wish to cancel please advise in writing to [celebrationofbirth@gmail.com](mailto:celebrationofbirth@gmail.com)