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MIDWIVES:

Preparation and Practice

**A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for a degree of Master of Arts in
Nursing at Massey University**

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CONTENTS

	Page
Abstract	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
Chapter 2 Literature review	22
Chapter 3 Methodology	50
Chapter 4 The Midwives' Perceptions of their Training	59
Chapter 5 The Factors that Influence Midwives to stay Practising	78
Chapter 6 Conclusion: Beginnings of a model for midwifery practice.	109
Appendices	
Appendix A Interview schedule	119
Appendix B Letter to midwife participants	127
Appendix C W.H.O. definition of a midwife	130
Appendix D Table 8: The midwives clinical experiences since qualifying.	131
References	133

ABSTRACT

The focus of this study is centred upon the perceptions, training and experiences of midwives.

A sample of recently qualified midwives was externally selected and interviewed to provide data for a descriptive study.

The initial results indicated the following needs for midwives: flexible training requirements, realisation of their prior nursing experiences, continuing professional educational needs, expansion of practical experiences to contribute to the development of a growing autonomous midwifery practice.

A beginning model for midwifery practice which is offered to help clarify and integrate aspects of complex and varied issues was developed out of the midwives' perceptions of their education and employment experiences.