

Supplementary Table 6: M&Cs Key components and implications for practice

Key Component	Context / need	Implications for practice	
Information and knowledge	Admission processes	Access to admission process steps to assess eligibility. (27, 29-32, 39, 42, 51, 61)	Transparent and easily available admission process steps, communicated clearly at first contact with Corrective Services and reception at the correctional centre
	Application process	Support for women with low literacy or culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds Variable application processes and approval times (31, 42, 51, 56, 61)	Advocate and/or a support person (i.e. Case manager) made available to mothers to aid with their application.
	Eligibility criteria	Security level may exclude women Pregnancy status may be an inclusion/exclusion criteria Sentence length may exclude some women on remand, short or long sentences	Clear and early communication to each applicant regarding any exclusion criteria
	Age of the child	Centres have different age limits for the children able to reside within a M&C (27) (28) (31, 33, 40, 41, 44, 49) (53, 55) (58) (59) (60) (29)	Define age limits for children to reside in the unit at the earliest possible time point
	Length of stay	Length of stay permitted for the child/mother can be dependent on the length of the mother's sentence	Communication of the length of stay for the centre and forming a plan for eligible women who will be separated from their child due to the length of their sentence.
	Unit Capacity	Variable unit capacity limits and availability by centre	If eligible, early communication regarding available places in the M&C unit.
Environment	Accommodation	Separate dwelling from CC population (30, 35, 37, 41, 44, 56, 58, 60) (61) (27-29, 31, 32, 39, 40, 42, 45) (33, 36, 49) (53, 54, 59)	Available description of the features of the accommodation accompanied by pictures
		Family environment, child friendly(51) and safe for the child(61)	Tailor the environment to be child friendly and stable for children

	Minimise the overstimulation and incompatibility of the CC environment on the child(43, 51, 54)	Appropriate lighting and noise levels suitable for infants and children to support sleep and development
	Outdoor play area for comparable play to the outside	Availability of outdoor play areas to support the development and facilitate play with other children
	Toys and play equipment access	Readily accessible age-appropriate toys and equipment for development that can be taken to their room for extended periods
Socialisation for the child	Socialisation with other children, mothers and people outside of the CC environment(38, 54) (43, 51)	Opportunity for children to play and interact with other children and mothers in an appropriate or supervised setting.
Responsibility for the child	Sole responsibility for their child. (38, 41, 44, 50, 61)	Shared responsibility for the child between the mother and correctional centre to reduce the burden on the mother.
Childcare	Childcare that is safe and acceptable to the mother	Provision of safe, acceptable childcare options for the mother to participate in other programs and not be disadvantaged or excluded as a result of residing in an M&C
Education and work placement	Exclusion from rehabilitation programs, educational and vocational training, and work assignments(46) (55)	Ensuring eligibility of mothers within M&C to participate in all programs available to women outside of the M&C.
Parenting education and programs	Access to support related to parenting, child development and bonding.	Opportunity to participate in parenting programs
Resources for the child	Sufficient resources to support healthcare, sleep, food, clothing, physical activities and education needs for the child (38, 43) (40, 41, 46, 52)	Appropriate resource allocation of M&Cs whereby the provision of all needs for the child and mother are commensurate to those outside a custodial setting

	Nutrition	Nutritious food for the child (47, 52)	Provision of nutritious food for children's growth and development
	Breastfeeding	Adequate provision to meet the breastfeeding needs of mother(46) (40, 52)	Provision of all requirements for breastfeeding, including adequate nutrition, breast pumps and safe storage of expressed breast milk
	Cultural practices	Inclusion of cultural parenting practices (54)	Supporting mothers to incorporate their cultural parenting practices and maintain connection to the community
	Pregnancy	Support women during pregnancy and post-partum(31, 40)and provide access to mental health support (30, 42)	Provision of adequate pre-natal and post-partum care consistent with comparable care outside, including mental health support services
	Parenting autonomy	Ability to parent their children in their own way.(42)	Capacity for mothers to have appropriate agency and autonomy in parenting style free from judgement
Systems and organisational	Staff training for M&Cs	Staff worried about children's safety (61)and providing care for the children.(37) Additional training in providing care of children residing in a M&C. (31, 37, 61)	Specific training for all M&C staff in the care and needs of children and mothers and the unique challenges of a M&C