

# MALE MIDWIFE IS ONE OF A KIND



**PRIVILEGED EXPERIENCE:** Sam Gale is a midwife at Townsville's Mater Hospital and will finish his studies at James Cook University this year.

Picture: MATT TAYLOR

## TESS IKONOMOU

AFTER completing more than 2500 hours of placement, Sam Gale will be the only man in his cohort to graduate as a midwife.

Mr Gale is about to graduate from JCU with a bachelor of nursing sciences/midwifery and will start next year at the Mater Hospital in Townsville in

the birth suites and on the floor in the women's units.

"I'm the oldest of seven kids so I've always been around pregnant ladies most of my life," he said.

"Midwifery is about working with women to have really good outcomes.

"That whole process is being with women throughout their pregnancy, it's such a unique and such a privi-

leged experience to be with those women at all times. It's the reason why I'm here."

Mr Gale said he didn't think being a man changed the way he approached the job.

He also praised his female midwifery colleagues, who are in the majority, for taking good care of their patients.

"The women are very accepting of me straight away, and they know I'm there for them," he said.

"We try to understand what she likes for her pregnancy and what makes her feel safe, what she wants to do.

"She shares the information with you to be able to provide her with the care she needs."