

## The Role of Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council

### Who we are

Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council is the statutory authority set up to regulate standards in midwifery. Members of the Council are appointed by the Minister of Health. We make sure midwives meet and maintain regulatory standards of education, conduct, and performance so that they provide high quality healthcare throughout their careers.

Health professional regulation exists to keep the public safe. Pregnant wāhine/people need to know what to expect and get what they expect. They need to be sure registered midwives are doing their job to a consistently high standard.

We see the roles of regulation are to put proactive measures in place to prevent harm, intervene early when an issue is raised, and apply the appropriate actions to improve safety.

### What do we do?

Our functions, as for all health regulatory authorities, are legislated by parliament. The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act provides a framework to safeguard the public. The Act says we must:

- Define the Midwifery Scope(s) of Practice and prescribe the qualifications required of registered midwives
- Accredite midwifery educational institutions and programmes
- Maintain a public Register of midwives who have the required qualifications and are competent and fit to practise
- Issue practising certificates to midwives who maintain their competence
- Establish programmes to assess and promote midwives' ongoing competence
- Deal with complaints and concerns about midwives' conduct, competence and health
- Set the midwifery standards for clinical and cultural competence and ethical conduct
- Promote education and training in midwifery
- Promote public awareness of the Council's responsibilities

# The regulatory and professional framework of Aotearoa New Zealand midwifery services

<b>Regulatory Framework</b>  Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu Midwifery Council	Regulates midwifery by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defining Scope of Practice</li> <li>• Approving and monitoring pre-registration education programmes</li> <li>• Registering midwives</li> <li>• Issuing Practising Certificates</li> <li>• Setting regulatory standards for clinical and cultural competence and ethical conduct</li> <li>• Setting ongoing competence programmes</li> </ul>	Monitors by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portfolio assessment against competencies</li> <li>• Continuing midwifery education</li> <li>• Professional activities</li> <li>• Receiving and acting on notifications</li> <li>• Monitoring and accreditation visits</li> </ul>
<b>Professional Framework</b>  Te Kāreti o ngā Kaiwhakawhānau ki Aotearoa   New Zealand College of Midwives  Ngā Maia	Sets professional framework through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midwifery philosophy</li> <li>• Code of Ethics</li> <li>• Standards of Practice</li> <li>• Midwifery education framework</li> <li>• Midwifery Standards Review process</li> <li>• Tūranga Kaupapa</li> </ul>	Develops profession by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflective practice</li> <li>• Continuing education</li> <li>• Professional activities</li> <li>• Resolution and support processes</li> <li>• Workforce programmes</li> <li>• Peer support and mentoring</li> </ul>

## How is Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council different from Te Kāreti o ngā Kaiwhakawhānau ki Aotearoa | New Zealand College of Midwives?

The Council is a statutory authority and provides the regulatory framework within which midwives must practise and it sets the competency standards required for public safety. The College is a membership organisation and provides the professional framework in which midwives practise and it supports midwifery practice.

Both organisations have an interest in ensuring that the regulatory processes for midwives are integrated in a professional framework and that appropriate standards of midwifery practice are maintained so that the public can be assured of safe and competent midwifery care.