



February 2016

Happy New Year

The Council sends its best wishes for a fulfilling and successful 2016 to all midwives and other newsletter readers.

Important dates

- 1 February - applications for annual practising certificates open
- 18 February – Council meeting, Wellington
- 19 February – shifting day to new 22 Willeston St premises
- 7/8 April – Council meeting
- 28 June – Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee Annual Report Day, Wellington

Respected kuia and midwife Mina Timutimu awarded New Year Honour



Much loved and respected midwife and kuia Mina Timutimu was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit in the New year's honours list. Mina was appointed as a foundation member of the Midwifery Council in December 2003 and served two terms

Her knowledge and experience in maternity and midwifery helped immensely in establishing the regulatory framework. Mina brought her mana and her understanding of Te Ao Māori, acquired in her lifetime of working for the health of women and their whānau, to the work and processes of the Council.

Mina also played a very important part in the process which led to the adoption of Council's Statement on Cultural Competence in November 2010 and made major contributions to the processes whereby the Council took its Māori name in 2006 and adopted the Turanga Kaupapa into its competencies in 2007.

Applications for 2016/17 annual practising certificates now open

The following instructions will assist you in renewing your annual practising certificate for the 2016-2017 year. **Please take your time and read all instructions before proceeding to the next step.** We recommend that you print this newsletter and follow the instructions, step by step. If you prefer visual instructions, there is a [flow chart](#) available to guide you through the process. The fee remains at \$400, comprising \$350 Annual practising Certificate + \$50 Disciplinary levy.

• Logon

Logon with your username and password. The flow chart will also help you with logging on. After logging on, please wait for each page to be fully loaded and ensure you look at all options given to you. If you cannot remember your user logon or password, follow the website instructions. If an email does not arrive within a minute or two, please check your spam folder before calling the Council. **Only** ring the Council if you continue to have difficulties logging on. Christine 04 498 8993 or Nick 04 498 8992 will then be able to help you.

Once you have logged on, you will receive a welcome notice.

• Apply for a Practising Certificate

Under the **REGISTERED MIDWIVES** tab, click on **Apply for Practising Certificate**. Please note this option only displays under this tab when you are logged on.

• Check Contact details

Check that your personal and contact details are still correct. If not, make the necessary changes.

• Check Recertification Programme status

The information shown is what the Council holds on your engagement in the Recertification Programme. If it is not correct, it means the Council has not been notified of your attendance at the course in question. In that case, you should either scan and send the certificate of attendance to the Council info@midwiferycouncil.health.nz or fax it to 04 499 5045. Please attend to this before proceeding with your application otherwise you will be issued with an interim practising certificate.

• Make application

There are 4 steps:

- 1) Choose Year
- 2) Requirements (again – make sure you have checked your details and changed them if not correct)
- 3) Workforce Survey
- 4) Payment. Unless payment is by another agency such as your DHB, it **must** be made at the time of application. If payment is not recorded in our bank account within 24 hours, (with the exception of cheques which must be received within three working days), your application will be declined and you will need to reapply.

Our bank account number is 03 0502 0399402 00

You have the following payment options:

Personal payment

- Credit card – this is the **only** option for immediate online payment at the time of application
- Direct Credit – you do this through your own internet banking. Reference with surname and your Council Registration ID
- Cheque – write Name and Registration ID on reverse

If you are paying for your practising certificate using a mobile phone, please ensure you also enter your registration number and surname. If you do not, we have no way of matching your application and payment and will not be able to issue a practising certificate.

Payment by other agency e.g. DHB

- Other – this option will display a list of payees. Use if your employer/DHB will be paying for your APC.

5) Print Confirmation

Print confirmation receipt regardless of who is paying. If you do not have a printer, you can save the page as a screenshot. Simply press Print Scrn (top right of keyboard) and then paste (Ctrl + v at the same time) into a word document. Save the document and print when you have access to a printer.

6) Plastic APC cards

Plastic cards are issued 5-10 days after application and payment has been confirmed, if your application is straightforward. It may take a little longer if we need to talk to you about your application or if you are not meeting the requirements of the Recertification Programme. A receipt will be sent with your APC card.

Working in the midwifery scope of practice without holding an APC?

Midwifery is a profession with an identified body of knowledge and skills required for practice. Midwives work in antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care. They also provide strategic and professional advice and they are researchers, managers, quality facilitators, educators.... The [scope of practice statement](#) sets out very clearly what is deemed to be the practice of a midwife. It makes reference to what skills a midwife must have and where they work. To practise within the midwifery scope, you must be registered and if you provide clinical care, hold a practising certificate. Registration is for life but practising certificates are applied for and granted on an annual basis.

The Council's position is as follows:

- Registered midwives working in maternity must have a midwifery practising certificate. If you engage in any form of clinical practice, you are required to hold an APC.
- Once you are a registered midwife, you remain accountable as a midwife for decisions made and advice given relating to pregnant, intrapartum and postnatal women or their babies in any clinical capacity
- Midwives who hold dual registration as a registered midwife and nurse cannot decide that they do not want to hold a midwifery APC and fall back onto their nursing registration while working in the maternity environment.
- Midwives who hold lactation qualifications who provide advice and assistance to women and midwives within the first six weeks of life need an APC because breastfeeding is part of the midwifery scope of practice

If midwives have not held an APC for some time and have been allowed to work in the maternity setting, they can apply to Council for voluntary removal from the register. This will remove any Midwifery Council obligations for the individual. If a midwife decides in the future to return to practise, she can reapply for re-entry at that time.

Statement to midwives on the Referral Guidelines

The Council again reminds all midwives of the importance of consistently and appropriately applying the [Referral Guidelines](#). Using them is your reassurance that you are making decisions with the woman when cases are complicated that are based on best evidence and agreed professional standards.

The Health and Disability Commissioner's [report](#) into the tragic death of a baby two years ago has just been released. The report concludes that the referral guidelines were not followed. In this case the midwife should have recommended consultation with a specialist when the baby lost more than 10% of its birth weight.

The Council accepts that midwifery practice may be complex. If for whatever reason the Referral Guidelines are not adhered to, there is an expectation that there is a conversation with the woman and her family about what is recommended by the guidelines. This is to ensure that the woman is able to make an informed decision about her care. In addition, the rationale for a decision to not follow the guidelines is then documented and a plan which is reviewed regularly is put in place for ongoing care.

You can read the Council's media response to the HDC report [here](#).

We know that most of you do follow the guidelines and that is one of the reasons we have such a high quality maternity service with low rates of neo-natal death in New Zealand and high rates of maternal satisfaction.

The midwifery profession will maintain these high standards by being vigilant and learning from mistakes.

As the guardians of professional standards, the Council's role is to protect mothers and babies. Effective regulation is one of the pillars that supports midwives to perform at the highest possible professional standard.

The Referral Guidelines are there not just to keep mothers and babies safe but to protect you

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