



May 2015

Important dates

- 8 May – Council meeting
- 23 June – Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee Annual Report Day, Wellington
- 2 July – Council meeting

Midwives' names on publicly available register

Recently, the issue of a midwife practising under a different name from that which was published in a Human Rights Review Tribunal decision received widespread media attention. The media wanted to know why, given that the midwife's name had been made public and she had either not applied for and/or had not been given name suppression, the Council was allowing her to "hide" under a different name. It was pointed out to the Council that several other Councils, including the Medical and Dental Councils, publish former names of practitioners in the online register.

The Council considered the matter at its last meeting. In line with its primary purpose to protect the health and safety of the public and the need to be as transparent as possible in its processes, the Council made the decision that all names under which a midwife has held a practising certificate should be publicly available information. These will now be added to the information available on the online Register.

The Council however recognises that there may be special circumstances where a midwife's former name should not be publicly available. If there is a compelling reason why a midwife does not want a former practising name to be publicly available, she should contact the Council as soon as possible. The Council however points out that it will not accept a previous adverse disciplinary or competence finding as a valid reason. Midwives have until the end of May to contact the Council about this matter.

Midwifery Graduates

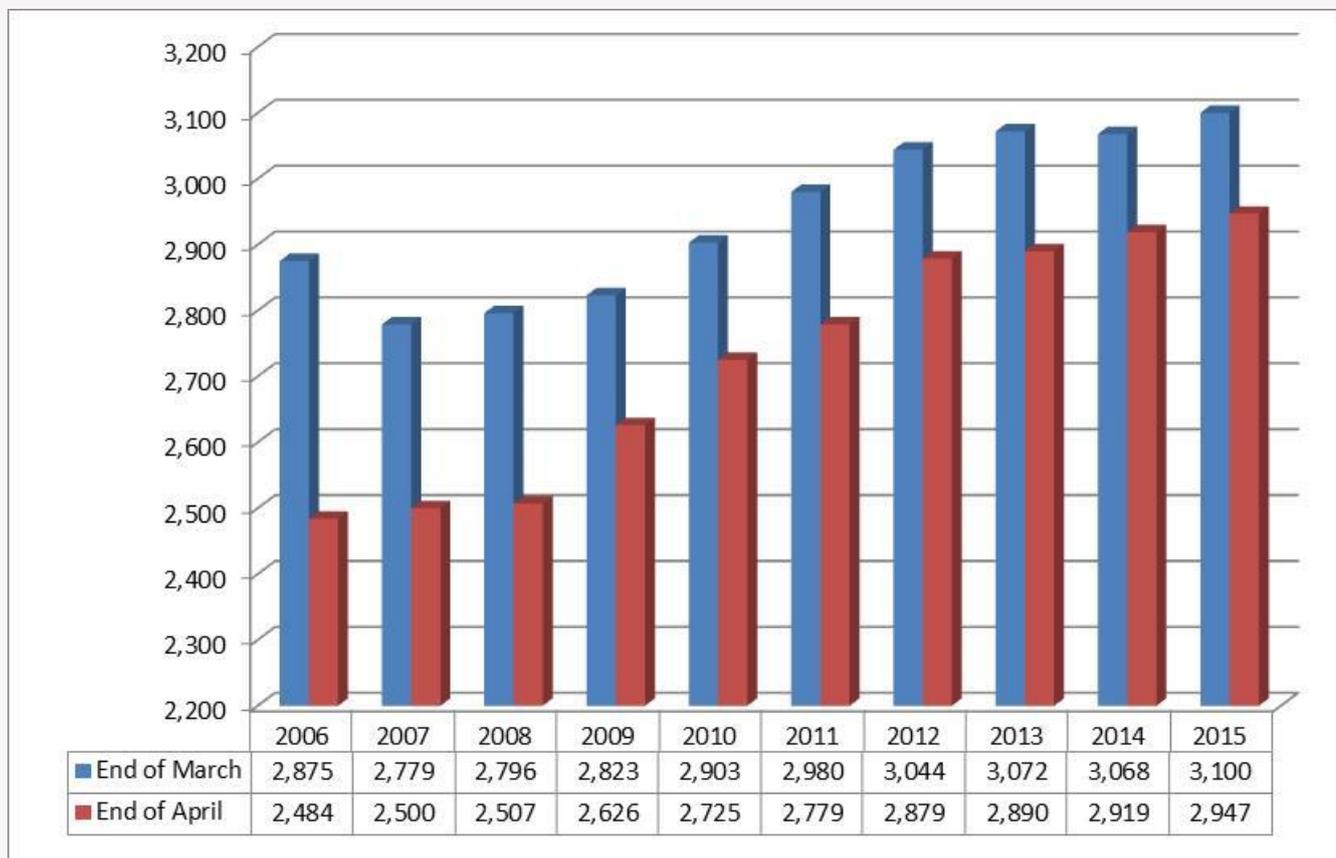
Congratulations to the graduates who passed the National Midwifery Examination in December and March – welcome to your new profession. The 2014/15 figure of 134 successful candidates does not include the 59 graduates who passed the March examination as the examination was not moderated and the graduates not registered until April in the 2015/16 year.

National Midwifery Examination passes since 1 April 2005

05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
103	108	109	107	125	129	149	133	147	134	59

APCs held at 31 March and renewals for 2015/16 practising year

The graph below shows the total number of APCs issued in each practising year (the end of March figure) and the number issued for the new practising year (end of April figure). The latest APC figures show that the numbers of midwives in the workforce continues to show a small but steady growth. The drop from the end of the practising year to the beginning of the new year is at a historical low of 4.9% of the workforce. This is the same as last year but a significant improvement on the 10% turnover levels applying ten years ago when the Midwifery Council assumed responsibility for the regulation of midwives.



Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee Annual Conference

The Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee's (PMMRC's) annual conference, Building capacity in the maternity sector, is being held on 23 June at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington. Participants will be given an overview of the latest annual report of the PMMRC, followed by a multidisciplinary perspective on the data. For more information, go to <http://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/mrc/pmmrc/news-and-events/news/2110/>

Expression of interest: Mentors for Internationally Qualified Midwives

The Council requires each internationally qualified midwife to be subject to oversight in the form of mentoring as part of the overseas competence programme under s40 of the HPCA Act. The primary responsibility of a mentor is to reassure the Council that the midwife is safely orienting herself to midwifery practice in the New Zealand maternity environment and is engaged in the Recertification and Overseas Competence Programmes.

The mentoring relationship is a negotiated partnership between two registered midwives. Its purpose is to enable and develop professional confidence. Its structure is mutually defined and agreed. A mentor does not always give answers but encourages the mentored midwife to research, explore and reflect on her practice, particularly at this time of orientation to the practice on midwifery in the New Zealand maternity environment.

Mentors are appointed as agents of the Midwifery Council under section 119 of the HPCA Act. The appointment is for a fixed term (until the completion of the Overseas Competence Programme), as per the letter of appointment.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor for Internationally Qualified Midwives, you should complete the Expression of Interest form.

Verification of death

The council has been part of a working party looking at the process of verification of death. Documents have been sent to professional organisations and DHB midwifery leaders as part of the ministry consultation process in which midwives are encouraged to participate.



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