



Kia ora koutou



Today we celebrate the International Day of the Midwife.

Together with many organisations globally, Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu the Midwifery Council acknowledges the work that midwives undertake and the huge contribution they make to health and safety of wahine and whānau across Aotearoa New Zealand.

I personally want to thank and acknowledge the many midwives that undertake roles and work for the Council.

The theme this year is Follow the Data: Invest in Midwives and today the State of the World's Midwifery (SoWMy) 2021 report is being released from the [United Nations Population Fund](#). Preliminary messages include:

- There is a global shortage of midwives and other health professionals. Investing in midwifery and the midwifery workforce will mean that other health professionals can remain in their areas of expertise.
- There is a need for midwifery leadership at every level. In Aotearoa New Zealand we are most fortunate to have midwives at all levels of leadership. Globally this is not the case. Midwives in New Zealand are also fortunate to have their own responsible authority.

The Council staff and Board once again acknowledge the work of midwives in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Council acknowledges that this week is also Perinatal Mental Health week and we appreciate the work that midwives and other health professionals engage in to support women affected during this time.

Dr Sue Calvert, CE/Registrar, Midwifery Council



#IDM2021 #SoWMy

APC roundup

At 30th April, 3266 midwives had renewed or applied for their first practising certificate.

This figure represents over 95% of those who held an APC at 31st March 2021. The Council expects that every year there is a slight decrease in those who hold practising certificates as a number of midwives retire or temporarily cease practice due to health or family circumstances.

The numbers build up over the course of the year and there is a marginal increase each year by the 31st March.

105 New Zealand graduates have been registered during 2020-2021.

Data currently being prepared shows that there has been an increase in midwives who have sought registration who have been educated overseas.

MyMCANZ

Once again I take the opportunity to acknowledge and apologise for the frustrations that were experienced by some midwives during the change to the new database and the APC round.

It is often said that one should expect issues when a new system is implemented, however our workflow statistics show that the level of inconvenience and support that was necessary was more than anticipated. Work is still continuing on the transition and on developing the functionality for midwives.

The Council takes the opportunity to remind midwives to ensure that they enter their education and professional activity details in their portal. This information will be required for APC and audit processes in the future so it is important that it is accurate and complete.



Aotearoa Midwifery Project

Work has progressed well on the Aotearoa Midwifery Project - the Council was pleased to approve the draft Scope of Practise referred to them by the Collaborative Reference Group.

The current focus is on preparing to engage and consult with the sector. The Council, in collaboration with members of the Collaborative Reference Group, plan to undertake a national road show as part of the engagement strategy.

A multi-media consultation process is being developed. Further details will be provided soon - watch our website or Facebook page for more details as they become available.

Stakeholder Meetings



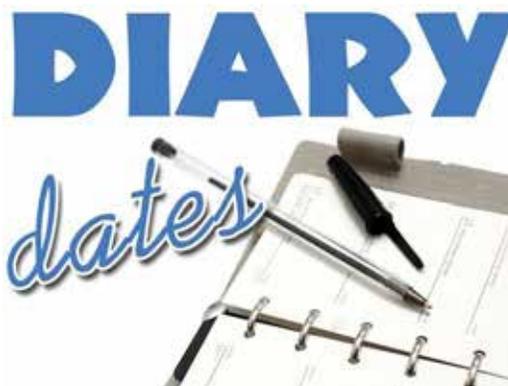
The Council Chair and Chief Executive met with the Associate Minister of Health Hon Dr Ayesha Verral in March 2021.

This was a positive meeting where discussion occurred around the Aotearoa Midwifery Project as well as workforce challenges.

Council representatives also attended the launch of Te Ara o Hine, Tapu Ora a national strategy to support students undertaking their midwifery education and are watching the development and roll out of this project with interest.

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Finance Audit and Risk Management meeting
10th June 2021

Council meeting
11th June 2021