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Kia ora koutou,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the May issue of Midpoint – the temperatures are now quite cool as daylight saving has ended and we approach the winter weeks. May is a busy month filled with days and weeks that celebrate kahu pōkai | midwives and whānau they serve.

We mark International Day of the Midwife on May 5th. This year's theme is "Midwives: A Vital Climate

Solution". We know that climate change poses unprecedented challenges to health, especially for women and babies both at home in Aotearoa and around the globe. Kahu pōkai | midwives play a pivotal role in reducing the effects of climate change with a model of care that is inherently sustainable. By promoting continuity of midwifery care, we can ensure healthier outcomes while using a sustainable, low-resource model of care for whānau.

The first week in May also Perinatal Mental Health Awareness week – the theme this year is: Hononga | Connection. Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa | Let us keep close together, not far apart. And then, of course, there is Mother's Day on Sunday 12th May!

You will have received an invitation from Te Tatau o Te Whare Kahu / the Midwifery Council to participate in a consultation on the prescribed qualifications for the Midwifery Scope of Practice.

The Council is considering an alternative pathway to registration as a registered midwife - a preregistration Master of Midwifery Practice Degree. I encourage you to make a submission as the Council is keen to get the views of the workforce on this proposal.

I am particularly mindful of all the kahu pōkai | midwives who care for whanau during their perinatal journey, while also making time to parent and nurture their own whānau. Ngā mihi nui.

Work on drafting the revised Standards of Competence is complete and they will be presented at the Board meeting in May. After that we expect to embark on an initial engagement process with Nga Maia, the College and Schools of Midwifery, and this will be followed by consultation with kahu pōkai | midwives in June and July.

After that consultation is complete, the Council will review the feedback and aims to finalise the Standards of Competence by the end of July 2024.

I am pleased to let you know that the revised Scope of Practice has been published. I would once again like to reassure you that the Council is committed to making sure that all kahu pōkai | midwives have the education and support they need to practice confidently within the revised Scope.

Thank you again for all you do to support whānau during the time of their pregnancy and birth

Nāku iti noa, nā,

Lesley Clarke

Tumu Whakahaere me te Pouroki | Chief Executive



Consultation on Master of Midwifery Practice Degree

You will have recently received a consultation document from Council which outlines a range of issues related to a proposed preregistration Master of Midwifery Practice Degree.

That includes information and consultation questions on title of programme, length of programme, programme hours, education programme standards, and entry criteria.

A preregistration Master of Midwifery Practice Degree may appeal to graduates from other health disciplines who would like to become registered kahu pōkai | midwives.

Under the current prescribed qualifications, a preregistration Master of Midwifery Practice Degree is not identified for entry to the Midwifery Scope of Practice. The proposed change would mean that an additional qualification is prescribed for registration as a midwife, that is, completion of an approved Masters in Midwifery Practice degree provided by an accredited educational provider in New Zealand, by a person registered with one of the responsible authorities appointed under the HPCAA. Prior to entry to the Register of Midwives, applicants would also need to demonstrate that they meet the competencies for entry to the Register of Midwives; and pass the National Midwifery Examination set by the Council.

The entry criteria for the proposed Master of Midwifery

Practice Degree would be any person registered with one of the responsible authorities appointed under the HPCAA who is in good standing with the relevant registration body. That acknowledges and effectively utilises the transferable skills and knowledge that a more mature student cohort brings from their previous academic and professional experiences.

One of the focuses for a preregistration Master of Midwifery Practice Degree is a critical shortage of midwives in Aotearoa, which is further compounded by a low proportion of Māori and Pacific kahu pōkai | midwives.

A preregistration Master of Midwifery Practice Degree may assist in building a culturally competent and responsive midwifery workforce that continues to serve the needs of Māori and Pacific communities. Increasing the number of Māori kahu pōkai | midwives is another step toward achieving equity.

Graduate-entry master's degrees provide an accelerated pathway to becoming a registered health professional for students with an existing bachelor's qualification. Internationally, they are a model of education for a wide range of health professions, including midwifery.

The Council values the views of kahu pōkai | midwives and encourages you to respond to this consultation.

Submissions can be made [online](#) and close Monday 31 May 2024.



International Day Of The Midwife May 5, 2024



The workforce we need for a warming world

To mark International Day of the Midwife the International Congress of Midwives will host a virtual panel discussion titled "Midwives: the workforce we need for a warming world" on Monday, May 6th. This will explore how midwives, as the frontline workforce, are not only first responders to climate catastrophes but also integral contributors to health systems striving to become more sustainable.

Panelists will talk about ways midwives emerge as the indispensable workforce, making health systems more sustainable, combating climate change, and ensuring a healthier, more sustainable future for all.

To find out more, [visit](#) the ICM website.

Are your Continuing Professional Development details up to date?

Please remember to regularly log into MyMCANZ to make sure your recertification details are up to date.

We invite you to [contact us](#) if you need to discuss anything relating to completing your Continuing Professional Development.

Sustainable Midwifery: Caring for Tomorrow's World [VIDM](#) 2024



Join the virtual International Day of the Midwife (VIDM) 24-hour free online conference centred on 5th May for midwives and anyone interested in childbirth. Sustainable midwifery practices prioritise the well-being of both mother and child while minimising environmental impact, ensuring a healthier future for generations to come. By caring for the whole person, we reaffirm their right to choose if and when to become pregnant or to continue a pregnancy. By integrating eco-friendly approaches and ethical care, sustainable midwifery embodies a commitment to nurturing not only new life but also the planet we share.

How does the 2024 theme relate to your practice? Consider sending an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a presentation or submitting a poster to share at the 2024 conference. VIDM welcomes stories, research, clinical practice, activism, public policy, and midwifery education examples from the perspective of clinicians, researchers, activists, students, and teachers.

Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal Mid22/567P Lisa Angela Gannon



NEW ZEALAND
HEALTH PRACTITIONERS
DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL
TARAIPUINARA WHAKATIKA KAIMAHI HAUORA

The Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (HPDT) has issued a decision regarding Registered Midwife, Lisa Gannon. The charges related to professional misconduct relating to obtaining medication for her own use between November 2020 and March 2021, and attempting to avoid liability by giving false information to the Council. RM Gannon admitted to all the particulars of the Charge.

The Tribunal ordered:

- Censure
- Cancellation of RM Gannon's registration
- Contribution towards costs of \$6,250.00 of the PCC and \$1,750.00 of the Tribunal.

You can find the HPDT's full decision and a summary of that decision [here](#).

Midwives invited to take part in new research

Study on workplace bullying

Are you a registered midwife who has
Experienced bullying in the last 5 years?

OR

Was at risk of being bullied in the last 5 years?

OR

Witnessed bullying in the last 5 years?

Then we want to hear from you.

Workplace bullying is a recurring issue. Research shows that it is part of midwifery culture across the world and has adverse effects on the individuals involved, the organisations, as well as on patient care. These include impacts on physical and mental health, absenteeism, burnout and turnover at an individual level, and staff shortages at an organisational and professional level.

We are a team of researchers from Massey University exploring bullying in the midwifery profession, including the prevalence, experiences, and outcomes of bullying. We are seeking participants to complete an anonymous survey focussing on their experiences of bullying. Your participation will enable a deeper understanding of bullying of midwives in New Zealand and be valuable for researchers, practitioners, and organisations in addressing the issue.

We will roll out the anonymous surveys shortly. In the meantime, if you want to know more about the study, please contact Vasudha Rao on: v.rao@massey.ac.nz

Dr Vasudha Rao, Ms Beth Tootell

To contact the office, please call us on 04 499 5040, [email](#) us or contact us through Facebook [Messenger](#) and one of the team will be able to assist you.