



The role of the Midwifery Council

30 November 2018

Who we are

The 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. Mothers 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 regulation as the ambulance at the top of the cliff, intervening early on to stop small problems becoming big problems. We set standards of education, conduct and performance and hold midwives accountable to those standards so that they deliver high quality healthcare throughout their careers.

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

Every day our midwives welcome some 168 babies into the world in New Zealand



The Midwifery Council

The Midwifery Council makes sure midwives meet and maintain regulatory standards of education, conduct and performance so that they provide high quality healthcare throughout their careers. The safety of mothers and babies comes first.

The regulatory and professional framework of New Zealand midwifery services

<p>Regulatory framework</p> <p>The Midwifery Council of New Zealand</p>	<p>Regulates midwifery by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining Scope of Practice • Approving and monitoring pre-registration education programmes • Registering midwives • Issuing Practising Certificates • Setting regulatory standards for clinical and cultural competence and ethical conduct • Assessing and monitoring competence, fitness to practise and conduct • Setting ongoing competence programmes 	<p>Monitors by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio • Assessment against competencies • Continuing midwifery education • Professional activities • Receiving and acting on notifications
<p>Professional framework</p> <p>New Zealand College of Midwives</p>	<p>Sets professional framework through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midwifery philosophy • Code of Ethics • Standards for Practice • Midwifery education framework • Midwifery Standards Review process 	<p>Develops profession by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflective practice • Continuing education • Professional activities • Resolution and support processes • Workforce programmes • Peer support and mentoring

How is the Midwifery Council different from the 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.

