



**Midwifery Council**

Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu

# Be Sure.

PAPER

03.

**ANNUAL  
PRACTISING  
CERTIFICATES**

April 2019

## Annual Practising Certificates (APC)

As with all registered health professionals, midwives must renew their practising certificate every year. Practising without a current APC is illegal in New Zealand.

The role of the Midwifery Council is to make sure midwives meet the requirements laid down in legislation - and if they do, to issue them with a practising certificate each year.

The Council requires midwives to undertake ongoing professional development to make sure that after they are registered, midwives continue their education. This helps to maintain their competence to practise.

**Midwives, as with all health practitioners, need to be willing to commit to continuing education as part of being a registered health practitioner.**

All registered midwives must engage in the Recertification Programme to demonstrate that they are competent to practise within the Midwifery Scope of Practice.

Completing the various requirements for an APC provides an opportunity for midwives to get up to date with the latest professional practice, to maintain and enhance their skills and knowledge, and to understand the changing needs of the public as well as other healthcare professionals.



### Be Sure

Be Sure is a campaign to encourage women to check their midwife is registered and that their Annual Practising Certificate is up to date.

### The Midwifery Council

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

[www.midwiferycouncil.health.nz](http://www.midwiferycouncil.health.nz)

## Making sure midwives are competent

Midwives' competence is measured against the Competencies for Entry to the Register. Applicants for registration as a midwife must hold qualifications as required by the Midwifery Council, demonstrate that they are competent to practise within the Midwifery Scope of Practice and provide certain information to satisfy the Council that they are fit for registration.

The Council's Code of Conduct and statement on Cultural Competence, together with the New Zealand College of Midwives Standards for Practice, Code of Ethics and Consensus Statements represent good practice. Midwives must also be aware of and comply with these requirements:

- Maternity Services Notice pursuant to Section 88 of the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000
- Medicines Amendment Act 2013
- Medicines Regulations 1984
- Misuse of Drugs Act 1975
- Misuse of Drugs Amendment Regulations 2014
- Privacy Act 1993
- Health Information Privacy Code 1994 (Current September 2017)
- Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights 1996
- Vulnerable Children's Act 2016
- all other relevant legislation

Midwives who apply for a practising certificate also have to satisfy the Midwifery Council that they continue to be fit and competent to practise.

The Midwifery Council's Recertification Policy sets out the programme in which registered midwives must engage to demonstrate that they are competent to practise within the Midwifery Scope of Practice.

**The APC process lets you know that your midwife has met all their professional requirements. It's the most obvious way you can be sure that they are effective and safe in their practice of midwifery.**

### Contact Us

Phone: +64 4 499 5040

General enquiries: [info@midwiferycouncil.health.nz](mailto:info@midwiferycouncil.health.nz)



If your midwife doesn't renew her Annual Practising Certificate by 31 March each year, she will have to stop practising at that date

Midwives practising without an APC will have no indemnity insurance, nor be able to claim maternity fees under S88, and their clients may not be covered by ACC.

Make sure that your midwife is registered and that their Annual Practising Certificate is up to date. Search the Register at:

**[www.midwiferycouncil.health.nz](http://www.midwiferycouncil.health.nz)**