



**Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu
Midwifery Council**

Te whakaū tiwhikete

Recertification Programme for Midwives consultation 2021

Purpose

The Council would value your feedback on our proposed changes to the Recertification Programme for the period 01 April 2022 – 31 March 2023.

You can access detailed information about the Recertification consultation as well as other relevant documents at www.midwiferycouncil.health.nz.

- **Recertification Consultation – Background Paper**
Review a timeline of the Recertification Programme consultation and proposed changes

We invite you to respond to the questions in one of the following ways;

- Sending in a manually completed Consultation Document to:
 - The Registrar
Midwifery Council of New Zealand
PO Box 9644
Marion Square
Wellington 6141
- Using the survey link below:
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F92BGFQ>
- Making an oral submission by phoning:
 - +64 4 499 5040

Please note that the Council encourages midwives to provide individual feedback as summary submissions provided by organisations will be given no weighting.

The Consultation closes on **Monday 15 November 2021 at 5pm**. We look forward to receiving your comments.

Instructions

In this paper, you will find a number of questions on which the Council is seeking your feedback.

Before you complete this paper, please ensure that you review the **Recertification Consultation – Background Paper** on our website. This paper provides you with some history on the Recertification Programme and the rationale for the Council proposing to amend the current programme.

Your Details

Your name: _____

I am completing this consultation document as an individual: YES/NO

If YES,

I am a (please highlight one)

- Core midwife- primary
- Core midwife- secondary
- Core midwife -tertiary
- LMC midwife- urban
- LMC midwife - rural
- Midwife manager
- Midwifery educator pre-registration programme
- Midwifery educator post-graduate or professional development
- Midwifery Advisor/researcher/leader
- Other – please advise _____

If NO,

Please provide name of your organisation:

Recertification Education Requirements 2022-2023

Mandated education

Over the past 17 years, the Council has modified the Recertification Programme with the main influences being feedback at Council forums, change in clinical practice and monitoring of trends. In 2018, the Council moved away from mandating required education and, instead, midwives were required to identify their education needs from their professional development plans and to complete chosen activities.

Changes in legislation that affect all the midwifery profession (the HPCA Act 2019 and Abortion Act 2020 in particular) have required the Council to reconsider this framework. There is a need for the Council to ensure that midwives are up to date with current changes in legislation and health priorities.

The Council is proposing that, in the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 initially, it will reintroduce mandatory and specified topics that it will require all midwives to complete.

To do this, the Council proposes that it will mandate some or all of the content of the current eight hour continuing education component of the Recertification Programme.

It proposes, therefore, that the education components of the programme for 2022-2023 will be as follows:

- Completion of emergency skills education as annual requirement
- Completion of minimum eight hours continuing education with specified mandated education
- Completion of eight hours professional activities
- Completion of Midwifery Standards Review if due for completion in this year

Recommendation One

That the Council mandate some or all of the content of the continuing education component of the Recertification Programme.

1. Do you agree that the Council mandates the content of the continuing education component of the Recertification Programme for midwives?
(please circle)

Yes / No / Undecided

Please make comment below:

Education on changes to the Abortion Act 2020

The Abortion Act places requirements on all health professionals where abortion services fall within their scope of practice, regardless of their choice or opinion around abortion care. In order to know and understand these requirements, an online learning programme for midwives has been developed by the Schools of Midwifery. This course is called Integrating Abortion Care into the Midwifery Scope of Practice.

This course is underpinned by the Ministry of Health Te Tiriti o Waitangi framework and Whakamaua – the Maori Health action plan. Midwifery in Aotearoa is committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and, therefore, midwives have a responsibility to ensure equitable, safe and quality services that support the health and wellbeing of Tāngata whenua and Tāngata Tiriti.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is the foundational document informing all aspects of abortion care in Aotearoa. The content not only includes aspects of legislation, but also asks midwives to reconsider cultural safety and partnership through decolonisation of thoughts and beliefs¹.

Completion of this course will not mean that midwives are able to provide abortion services on their own responsibility, but that they have knowledge and skills to know what to do should wahine or whānau approach them for advice and guidance. This is a four-hour online learning programme.

Recommendation Two

That the Council makes completion of the course Integrating Abortion Care into the Midwifery Scope of Practice mandatory education for the period 1 April 2022- 31 March 2023.

2. Do you agree that the Council makes completion of the course Integrating Abortion Care into the Midwifery Scope of Practice mandatory for the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023? (please circle)

Yes / No / Undecided

Please comment below:

¹ Integrating abortion care into midwifery practice (2021) moodle.op.ac.nz: Dunedin Otago Polytechnic.