

In this issue

New midwifery appointment at Te Aka Whai Ora | Meet the team | Anti-convulsant medications update | Documentation and Record Keeping | Midwives working in extreme conditions | ICM elects a new Board



Kia ora koutou,

It was an honour to travel to the 33rd Triennial International Congress of Midwives with the Co-Chairs of Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council earlier this month. The Congress brought the global community of midwives together to build relationships, cultivate ideas, and identify pathways for progress.

After three busy days of useful workshops and plenary sessions, the final gathering explored the role of ICM in advancing inclusive

midwifery. It looked at ways we support midwives to deliver the best-possible care to birthing people around the world.

The global leaders on this panel discussed strategies for ensuring the next generation of midwives reflects our increasingly diverse communities, as well as practices midwives can adopt to ensure they're providing inclusive care.

I was struck by how challenging the role of the midwife was

in many parts of the world. Home births are outlawed in many countries, women frequently have fewer childbirth choices and midwives have to work in areas of extreme deprivation and violence.

I was reminded how far we have come in Aotearoa, where we have a strong focus on whānau health and midwives work in partnership with people in their pregnancy and birth journey. There is growing understanding and acceptance of the importance of cultural as well as clinical safety. While I acknowledge there is plenty of work still to do, we celebrate how far the profession of midwifery has developed in our part of the world.

I am delighted to let you all know that we have established a new position in the operations team - Wellington-based midwife, Victoria Roper, will become the inaugural Senior Advisor Māori and Equity.

Victoria joins the team in July and we will hold a mihi whakatu to welcome her. Read more about Victoria in the next issue of eMidpoint.

In July we celebrate Matariki - a time to gather with whānau and friends to reflect on the past, we can celebrate the present, and plan for the future. Mānawatia a Matariki to you all.

Lesley Clarke

Tumu Whakahaere me te Pouroki | Chief Executive

Remember...

Just a quick reminder to all midwives to update your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) page in MyMCANZ with education that you have completed throughout the year. This will enable you to keep up to date with your education hours and also provides us with an accurate record of recertification requirements.

New midwifery appointment at Te Aka Whai Ora

TeTatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council would like to congratulate Heather Muriwai (Tangahoe, Ngāti Ruanui) who joins Te Aka Whai Ora as the Chief Clinical Officer, Midwifery.

Heather has 25 years' experience in the midwifery sector, including as a Principal Advisor in the Family and Community Health team at Te Whatu Ora. She has been an LMC midwife, a member of the kaupapa Māori Midwifery team at Turuki Health Care in South Auckland, the programme coordinator of Te Rito Ora Community Breastfeeding Support Service in Counties Manukau, and Clinical Lead Advisor, Māori Midwifery at Counties Manukau District Health Board. Heather also worked on the Aotearoa Midwifery Project as a member of the Collaborative Reference Group and the Project Working Group. Congratulations on your new appointment Heather.



Meet the team - Nicky Jackson

Senior Advisor Midwifery Regulation

Kia ora koutou,

I have worked within the secretariat for the past seven years - and moved to work full time three years ago.

My background as a midwife includes working as an LMC, working as a core staff member, working in management at a DHB and as the Maternity Quality Safety Programme (MQSP) facilitator. I still do some casual shifts at my old stomping ground, Hutt Hospital when I can.

Here at Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council, I work with a small but fabulous team of people. Together we provide the administration for all the different areas of regulation; our registration process (for both Aotearoa graduates and Internationally qualified midwives), and programmes for those returning to practice (after three years) and those returning to Aotearoa and those from overseas.

I also am part of the team that considers complaints and notifications about midwives' practice. We present notifications of concern and responses to the Council to enable them to decide what further action, if any, is required under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.



I live in Wellington with my very supportive partner and we have four children with only one still left at school. In my spare time, I try to keep fit by walking and going to the gym and have recently taken up yoga.



Documentation and record keeping

TeTatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery

Council would like to remind all midwives that efficient documentation and record keeping are essential to record the provision of safe and effective care for whānau and are an integral part of midwifery practice

Documents associated with the provision of health care will form an important component of any practice. Professional record keeping includes all forms of recorded communication that supports the midwifery care provided in partnership with the whānau. This includes all written and electronic health care records, audio and text, emails, laboratory reports, photos, videos or any other form of communication pertaining to a birthing woman's care.

Maternity records in Aotearoa New Zealand must be retained for a minimum of ten years following the date of the last entry. Professional responsibility requires midwives to take active steps to protect stored documents and records. It is important to remember that such data is vulnerable to slow deterioration and disasters like floods and fire.

It is accepted in health practice that whānau have a right to access their health information and many community based midwives provide the woman with her own notes. Birthing people/wahine are entitled to have a copy of their health care records.

[Find out more about documentation and record keeping. NZCOM record keeping toolkit](#)

Anti-Convulsant medication update

The current Scope of Practice of a midwife includes informing and preparing the woman and her family for pregnancy (birth, breastfeeding and parenthood and includes certain aspects of women's health, family planning and infant well-being).

Competency one performance criteria 1.10 states the midwife provides up to date information and supports the woman/ wāhine with informed decision-making.

Whānau may ask about the impact of anti-convulsant medication on pregnancy/pepi and Foetal Anti-Convulsant Syndrome (FACS). There is also new information for men of reproductive potential.

See here for further information:

[Midwifery Council statement on the Midwifery Scope of Practice and prescribing controlled drugs](#)

[Foetal Anti-Convulsant Syndrome New Zealand](#)

[Medsafe](#)

Classifications of some medicines are changing

[The classifications of some medicines are changing: what this means for you.](#) All regulatory changes described come into force and will need to be adhered to from 1 July 2023 (for fentanyl, zopiclone, zolpidem) and 1 October (for tramadol).

Midwives working in extreme conditions

Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council was represented at the International Congress of Midwives 33rd Triennial Congress by Council Co-Chairs Ngarangi Pritchard and Kerry Adams, and Chief Executive Lesley Clarke. The Congress took place in June and saw midwives from around the world gather to share ideas and learn from each other.

The brutality of war was driven home to the participants during a Plenary Session titled 'The role of midwives in humanitarian and fragile settings'.

Ukrainian midwife, Vira Tselyk, spoke of her experiences: 'We were in a bomb shelter for 42 days. The sound of a baby crying

following birth was more powerful than the loudest shelling. It kept us going, gave us hope and was a sign that our nation will survive'. During this time, 136 babies were born, including two sets triplets and three sets of twins. Vira described how they removed doors in the bomb shelter to use as beds, and survived with no heating or power during winter. Vira received a standing ovation from the Congress for her role in caring for birthing mothers.

Another panellist, Jeffthanie Mathurin is a Haitian registered midwife. "Women never stop giving birth during humanitarian disasters. Women still need access to sexual and reproductive health, even



more than before." She worked as practitioner midwife in maternity ward for almost 5 years and has been working as the communication officer of the Association of Haitian Midwives since 2021. Jeffthanie's association launched a mobile clinic to provide care to pregnant women, those facing gender-based violence, and adults seeking sexual health services. Jeffthanie discussed the violence in Haiti and its impact on women and midwives. Haiti has the highest perinatal mortality rate in the Caribbean. Midwives work hard to provide safe midwifery care against a backdrop of shortages, disasters and even the threat of being kidnapped.

In Aotearoa, we reflect on the recent disasters in our own country and the additional pressure that this placed on our midwifery workforce at that time. Ngā mihi nui for all you do.



Matariki

Mānawa maiea te putanga o Matariki
Mānawa maiea te ariki o te rangi
Mānawa maiea te Mātahi o te Tau.

Whano, whano

Haramai te toki ata huakirangi

Haumi e

Hui e

Tāiki e!

Celebrate the rising of Matariki

Celebrate the lord of the skies

Celebrate the new year

Unite, unite

And bring forth the dawn

Together

In union

We are one!

Matariki is the main star in the cluster. It is connected to wellbeing and welcomes in the New Year.

Published by: The Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti
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ISBN 978-1-77550-870-0 (Online)



ICM elects a new Board

The International Confederation of Midwives elected a new Board during the Triennial Congress

Led by newly elected President, Sandra Oyarzo Torres, the Board will champion the cause of midwifery and lead midwives into an era of progress, innovation, and improved maternal and newborn health outcomes. Alison Eddy, Chief Executive of the College of Midwives, was elected the Regional Board Member of the Western Pacific Region. Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council would like to warmly congratulate Alison and wish her every success in her appointment.

