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Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the March issue of Midpoint – the air has a definite autumnal feel to it in Pōneke. I have been busy meeting with midwifery educators and midwifery leaders and learning more about the challenges and opportunities facing midwives. It is good to be forging strong relationships within the sector.

We are in the final weeks of Annual Practising Certificate renewal time and recognise this comes at

a difficult time for some midwives. Please do contact us if you are concerned about your ability to comply with your continuing professional development obligations at this time so that we can discuss your options with you.

One of the ways Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council ensures midwives are safe and competent to practise is to monitor the mandatory recertification education. I urge you to ensure your details are up to date as some midwives will not

be able to apply for their practising certificates online if there are overdue requirements unless an extension of time has been granted. If you are not going to practise, you will need to log in to MyMCANZ complete the non-practising process and change your status to 'Non practising'.

Ngā mihi nui for all your mahi supporting whānau during their pregnancy and birth journeys.

Please remember, all midwives must complete the four-hour online mandatory Abortion Law Reform education by the end of this month.

The Abortion Law Reform education covers off what the change in law means for all health professionals regardless of their belief systems. Completing this education does not mean a midwife can provide abortion care services. Anyone who wants to provide miwifery-led abortion care will need to complete further education in order to practise in this area.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Lesley Clarke

Tumu Whakahaere me te Pouroki | Chief Executive and Registrar

APCs applications due now!

All applications for Annual Practising Certificates need to be received by the end of March. From 1 April 2023, you may not practice midwifery unless you have a practising certificate valid until 31 March 2024 (or a date within this timeframe for an interim practising certificate).

Ngā mihi maioha to all the midwives who have already applied for their APCs online, as well as those midwives who have called the office to discuss their options with one of the team. Please contact us if you have any questions about your APC application.

Some midwives will not be able to apply for their practising certificates online if there are overdue requirements unless an extension of time has been granted.

Log into [MyMCANZ](#) ensure your recertification details are up to date and to complete your application.

Questions or concerns?

If you have been affected by the floods or cyclone, and are worried about completing your APC application, please discuss this with your employer as there are discretionary funds available to assist midwives facing financial hardship. This is managed through the NZ College of Midwives and Te Whatu Ora.

Please contact us if you need to discuss anything relating to completing your Continuing Professional Development.

Meet the team - Nikita Taiapa

Kaiārahi Whakamōhiotanga | Notifications Officer

Kia ora koutou,

Ko Hikurangi te maunga, ko Waiapu te awa, ko Horouta te waka, ko Ngāti Porou te iwi, ko Te Whānau a Hinerupe te hapū, ko Nikita Holyoake Taiapa taku ingoa.

I started out at Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu in March 2022 as an Administration Assistant. I then left for three months to do a law clerkship before returning as the Notifications Officer in February 2023.

I am currently studying a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Commerce at Te Herenga Waka. However, after working in a dementia ward for two years I realised I had a keen interest in the health sector. The work that I do largely involves liaising with the Deputy Registrar and Registrar around complaints regarding midwives' practice and their management in accordance with the requirements of the HPCA Act. This intertwines both



my interest in the health sector as well as in law and regulation.

In my downtime, you will often find me making the most of the beautiful walks around Pōneke, doing yoga, catching up on my never-ending law readings or flicking through a real estate mag (my guilty pleasure).

Pertussis update



Following the recent tragic deaths from pertussis, [Te Whatu Ora](#) is encouraging maternity care providers to be alert to the symptoms of pertussis and to encourage vaccination to prevent potential community spread. People are reminded to make sure tamariki, their caregivers and pregnant people are immunised against the illness.

Free antenatal pertussis vaccination is available from GPs and through many pharmacies. It can be given from the second trimester and is recommended to have from 16 weeks, but at least 2 weeks before birth.

If the pregnant person needs help to find a local healthcare provider, they can visit www.healthpoint.co.nz/ then enter 'Diphtheria / Tetanus / Pertussis' into the search bar. This will display pharmacies providing the service. Vaccination can also be arranged through their usual healthcare provider.

In Aotearoa, the first infant vaccination opportunity is the six-weeks immunisation event. This means un-immunised infants and those under six weeks are most vulnerable to pertussis. Increasing antenatal pertussis vaccination provides protection for newborns too young to be immunised.

Pertussis in young babies is unpredictable and can get worse very quickly. Urgent medical help should be sought if babies with coughs have difficulty breathing or are not able to feed because of coughing or this is causing them to vomit.



All practising midwives must complete the course [Introduction to the Abortion Legislation and Midwifery Roles and Responsibilities](#) by the end of March.

This education is focussed on the change in law and what that means for all health practitioners – midwives included – regardless of their belief systems.

Completion of this education does not mean a midwife will be able to provide abortion care – they will need to complete further education if they want to offer midwifery-led abortion care.

All midwives must complete this [education module](#) by March 31, 2023. This is part of the [recertification](#) programme for all midwives.

Please note the Council office will be closed on 1 April 2023 as this date falls on the weekend and any APC related issues won't be able to be processed until Monday, 3 April 2023.

Calling all Internationally Qualified Midwives working in Aotearoa



We hope you are enjoying living and working in Aotearoa New Zealand. As a midwife new to the Aotearoa we would like you to invite you to a zoom hui with Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council and the New Zealand College of Midwives (NZCOM) to discuss how we improve the education and support provided to internationally qualified midwives.

To register with the Council you will have completed (or are still completing) some mandatory education. We are in the process of revising these courses and would like your input into:

- what works well and what doesn't
- suggestions for improvement

The NZCOM would like to know about your experience of working in New Zealand and how they can support you to fully integrate into the midwifery workforce and maternity system.

Join our Zoom hui on Monday 15th May

12pm and again at 4pm

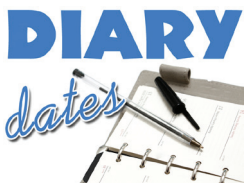
Please [register your interest](#) in attending and we will send you the zoom link. If you are unable to attend, we would still love to hear from you. Please send your thoughts via email or request an individual discussion.

Te Tatau o Te Whare Kahu ki Hine Pae Ora Aotearoa Midwifery Project - An update

An independent analysis of the feedback has been completed and will be discussed by the Board at its next meeting.

Work drafting the Standards of Competence is being undertaken by a subset of the Collaborative Reference Group and input from a broader set of stakeholders across the health and disability sector. The Council intends to put the Standards of Competence out for feedback from the sector this year.

We will continue to keep you updated as the Project progresses.



- 7-10 April 2023, Easter break
- 4 May 2023, Council meets
- 15 May 2023, IQM zoom hui

Privacy and confidentiality

We would like to remind all midwives about their obligations under the [Code of Conduct and Privacy Act 2020](#).

The Code of Midwifery Professional Conduct (the Code of Conduct) outlines the Council's expectations of midwives around confidentiality.

The Code of Conduct states that midwives are accountable for their practice and for their conduct. They are accountable to the woman, the profession and to the community. The public and midwifery profession expect that midwives conduct themselves personally and professionally in a way that maintains public trust and confidence in the midwifery profession.

Through their conduct, midwives ensure that personal information is obtained and used in a professional way that ensures privacy and confidentiality for clients and for their colleagues.

Voluntary Bonding Scheme



Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand

The Voluntary Bonding Scheme is a practical initiative run by Te Whatu Ora to encourage newly qualified health professionals to work in the communities and specialities that need them most, and to retain essential health professionals throughout Aotearoa. Those on the scheme can receive payments to help repay their student loan – or as a top-up income for those without a loan.

If you are a new graduate midwife who completed undergraduate studies in 2022 or early 2023 and you intend to work in an eligible hard-to-staff community for at least three years, you might be eligible to register for the 2023 Intake of the Scheme.

The six-week Registration of Interest period for the Scheme's 2023 Intake closes Sunday 2nd April 2023 (midnight). Registration is via an online web-form available on [Te Whatu Ora's website](#).

Your mental health and well being

We know that many midwives are feeling stressed and close to burning out. There are a range of resources and services available that can provide you with confidential support and advice from trained professionals. We encourage you to reach out if you are feeling overwhelmed.

- Free call or text 1737 at any time to talk to a counsellor
- [Ministry of Health](#)
- [College of Midwives](#)