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Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to the March issue of Midpoint – the air has a definite autumnal feel to it and Easter is just around the corner. It has now been over a year since I was appointed to the role of Chief Executive and so much has happened during that time that affects kahu pokai | midwives in the regulatory space.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Co-chairs Ngarangi

Pritchard and Kerry Adams and fellow Board members for their constant support and guidance over the past year as I have navigated the complexities of my new role. Thank you also to the many pōkai | midwives I have had the privilege of meeting and working with to progress our shared aspirations for the profession and whānau.

I wish also to acknowledge the team in the office who carry out their work with calm professionalism and good humour. When APCs are due for renewal there is additional pressure on the staff to deal with queries, and I appreciate the respect and

commitment each person shows under sometimes challenging circumstances.

**Thank you those of you who have completed your APC applications. If you still need to apply for your APC, I urge you to make sure to complete your application by 28 March to take into account the impact of the Easter public holidays.**

Earlier this year, we sent the revised Scope of Practice to all kahu pokai | midwives. Work continues on drafting the revised Standards of Competence and we expect to embark on that consultation in June. After that consultation, the Council will review the feedback and aims to finalise the revised Standards of Competence by the end of July 2024.

The Council is committed to making sure that all kahu pōkai |midwives have the education and support they need to practice confidently within the revised Scope. Council staff are preparing further educative material to support kahu pōkai | midwives to transition to the requirements of the revised Scope.

Thank you again for all you do to support whānau during the time of their pregnancy and birth

Nāku iti noa, nā,

**Lesley Clarke**

Tumu Whakahaere me te Pouroki | Chief Executive

### APC applications due now!

Please note that all applications for Annual Practising Certificates (APC) need to be received by the end of March.

You may not practice midwifery unless you hold a current practising certificate issued by the Council. APCs are valid from 1 April 2024 until 31 March 2025 (or a date within this timeframe for an interim practising certificate).

Ngā mihi maioha to the vast majority of midwives who have already applied for their APCs online (**Over 85% at the time this newsletter was produced!**) as well as those midwives who have called the office to discuss their options with one of the team. Remember to apply for your APC now as the office will close for the Easter Break on March 28, so no one will be available to assist you if you have difficulty with your application until the office reopens after Easter.

Please [email](#) us if you have any questions about your APC



### Easter break

**Please note that the office will be closed from 5:00pm on Thursday 28 March and will reopen on Tuesday 2 April at 8:00am.**

**We wish you all a safe and restful break.**

## A word from the Co-Chairs

Kia ora koutou,

**At its first meeting in February 2024, the Council appointed the Board Co-Chairs to guide Te Tatu o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council for the coming year. Ngarangi Pritchard decided to step down from the Co-Chair position, although she will still stay on the Council to complete her term.**

Kylie Clark was appointed as Tangata Whenua Co-Chair and Kerry Adams was reappointed as Tangata Tiriti Co-Chair.

We would like to acknowledge the energy, humility and knowledge that Ngarangi brought to her mahi as inaugural Tangata Whenua Co-Chair.

Her compassionate commitment to midwifery and her belief in the importance of improving outcomes for whanau have been instrumental in guiding the work of Te

Tatau o te Whare Kahu over the past three years. We are deeply grateful to her for all Ngarangi has given to the Board. Ngā mihi nui.

There are still vacancies on our Board and we await new appointments when they are announced by the Minister of Health, the Hon Shane Reti.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Kylie Clark,

Tangata Whenua Co-Chair and

Kerry Adams,

Tangata Tiriti Co-Chair



Ngā mihi nui Ngarangi for all your mahi as Tangata Whenua Co-Chair

### Midwifery Standards Review (MSR) update

**At the end of 2023, the Council received valuable feedback from the workforce on the 2024 – 2027 recertification programme.**

The Council acknowledges that the MSR, in its current form, needs revision. The Council has committed to review the intent of a quality assurance tool in relation to public safety and what processes are required to ensure this.

In the meantime, the current MSR will remain in place for the 2024/2025 APC year whilst this revision occurs.



### International Day Of The Midwife 2024, May 5, 2024

#### The workforce we need for a warming world

To mark International Day of the Midwife the International Congress of Midwives will host a virtual panel discussion titled “Midwives: the workforce we need for a warming world” on Monday, May 6th.

This event will offer a unique opportunity to explore how midwives, as the frontline workforce, are not only first responders to climate catastrophes but also integral contributors to health systems striving to become more sustainable. Pannelists will take part in a conversation on how midwives emerge as the indispensable workforce, making health systems more sustainable, combating climate change, and ensuring a healthier, more sustainable future for all. To find out more or register, [visit](#) the ICM website.



#### Sustainable Midwifery: Caring for Tomorrow's World [VIDM 2024](#)

Sustainable midwifery practices prioritise the well-being of both mother and child while minimising environmental impact, ensuring a healthier future for generations to come. By caring for the whole person, we reaffirm their right to choose if and when to become pregnant or to continue a pregnancy. By integrating eco-friendly approaches and ethical care, sustainable midwifery embodies a commitment to nurturing not only new life but also the planet we share. The ancient profession of midwifery must remain sustainable in the contemporary world through innovative practices in education, research, and health policy.

### Are your Continuing Professional Development details up to date?

Remember to log into MyMCANZ to make sure your recertification details are up to date and to complete 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.

Please [contact us](#) if you need to discuss anything relating to completing your Continuing Professional Development.

**Health Practitioners  
Disciplinary Tribunal  
Mid22/545P Sanaz  
Khodaverdian**



**NEW ZEALAND  
HEALTH PRACTITIONERS  
DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL**  
TARAIPIUNARA WHAKATIKA KAIMAHI HAURŌ

**The Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (HPDT) has issued a decision regarding Sanaz Khodaverdian. The charges related to inappropriate claiming, inadequately maintained records, inadequate/inappropriate care, breach of privacy, and inadequate Informed consent.**

The Tribunal ordered:

- cancellation of registration;
- censure; and
- payment of 55% of the costs of the Tribunal and PCC investigation, fixed at \$210,000.00.

You can find the HPDT's full decision and a summary of that decision [here](#).



Theme this year is:

Hononga | Connection.

Waiho i te toipoto, kua i te toiroa

Let us keep close together, not far apart

This annual campaign hosted by PADA to raise awareness and encourage advocacy to highlight the need for better perinatal mental health outcomes in Aotearoa.

Find out more at [PADA](#).



- 29 March to - 2 April 2024, Easter break
- 6 May 2024, Council meets

## Midwives invited to take part in new research

### Study on workplace bullying

**Are you a registered midwife who has experienced bullying in the last 5 years? Or were you at risk of being bullied in the last 5 years? Or have you witnessed bullying in the last 5 years? Then we want to hear from you.**

Workplace bullying is a recurring issue. Research shows that it is part of midwifery culture across the world and has adverse effects on the individuals involved, the organisations, as well as on the care of pregnant people. These include impacts on physical and mental health, absenteeism, burnout and turnover at an individual level, and staff shortages at an organisational and professional level.

We are a team of researchers from Massey University exploring bullying in the midwifery profession, including the prevalence, experiences, and outcomes of bullying. We are seeking participants to complete an anonymous survey focusing on their experiences of bullying. Your participation will enable a deeper understanding of bullying of midwives in New Zealand and be valuable for researchers, practitioners, and organisations in addressing the issue.

We will roll out the anonymous surveys shortly. In the meantime, if you want to know more about the study, please contact Vasudha Rao on: [v.rao@massey.ac.nz](mailto:v.rao@massey.ac.nz)

Dr Vasudha Rao, Ms Beth Tootell

### Rehabilitation model for professional discipline research study

**We warmly invite health practitioners to participate in our research study so we can understand the experiences of people who have undergone rehabilitation in response to professional discipline by the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal.**

A research team from AUT, Otago and Massey Universities are looking for health practitioners who have been disciplined by the Tribunal and received rehabilitative conditions (i.e. not de-registered). The study is funded by the NZ Royal Society Te Aparangi Marsden Fund.

Involvement of practitioners in a confidential interview will help us understand the processes and experiences of rehabilitation ordered by the Tribunal. Insights from practitioners regarding their experience will be very valuable. This information will contribute to a larger study on rehabilitation after professional misconduct of health practitioners, teachers and lawyers. We also inquire about the perspectives of those who order, monitor and deliver rehabilitation through focus groups. Ultimately, we will propose a rehabilitation model that aims to benefit future practitioners and inform disciplinary and regulatory bodies.

To be included, participants will need to have completed the rehabilitation ordered by the Tribunal between 1 January 2018 and 30 December 2022. For further information or to participate in the study, please email [kate.diesfeld@aut.ac.nz](mailto:kate.diesfeld@aut.ac.nz) or [amor.hirao@aut.ac.nz](mailto:amor.hirao@aut.ac.nz)

Professor Kate Diesfeld, Professor Lois Surgenor and Dr Marta Rychert

To contact the office, please call us on 04 499 5040, [email](#) us or contact us through Facebook [Messenger](#) and one of the team will be able to assist you.