

Midpoint

Midwifery Council New Zealand Newsletter

Guardians of Professional standards

▶ August 2017



In addition to the “business as usual” work of the Council mid-year, there are a number of key issues and special projects in which we are engaged.

The work of the Council with respect to the continuing midwifery workforce issues focuses on what is needed to have sufficient numbers of New Zealand-educated midwifery graduates entering the profession, both as core and community-based midwives; the efficient and effective processes around Internationally Qualified Midwives applying for registration; and the supply of data to Health Workforce NZ to assist in their producing robust workforce modelling.

As always, if you have any questions arising from this newsletter or relating to midwifery regulation, please do not hesitate to contact the Council.

Sharron Cole, CEO/Registrar

Be Safe. 03. APCs

The third Be Safe. paper has now been released. This is a series of papers highlighting safety, best practice and professional standards in midwifery.

This issue explains what evidence the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act requires the Midwifery Council to gather each

Be Safe.

year before it can issue an Annual Practising Certificate.

The paper also sets out the declarations midwives make in their application and reminds them that they should only tick the declarations which apply to them.

Consistent application of the Referral Guidelines

The Health and Disability Commissioner has again raised the issue of midwives' use of the Guidelines for Consultation with Obstetric and related Medical Services (the Referral Guidelines).

The Commissioner's concerns relate both to the standard of care and informed consent issues. He understands and accepts that a woman has a right to decline a consultation or a referral but that she must be given full information on which to base that decision. This should be properly documented but the HDC states it is seeing little evidence of this in the notifications it has been investigating.

The HDC will be meeting with the Council to discuss how we might work together to ensure consistent application of the Referral Guidelines.

The Council's first Be Safe paper is on the [Referral Guidelines](#) and fully sets out the Council's expectations with respect to midwives' use of the Referral Guidelines.

Please reread this document because it is the Council's articulated expectations around the use of the guidelines against which midwives' practice is measured.



Internationally Qualified Midwives

For over a year now, the Council has worked with AHPRA on a shared Outcomes-based Assessment Framework for the registration of Internationally Qualified Midwives. This is what we both seek as under the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement, midwives registered in either country are eligible for registration in the other. The purpose of the Assessment Framework is to provide a detailed description of midwifery practice that is necessary to underpin the assessment of competence to practise for regulatory

functions. It is exciting that we are now beginning work on the implementation of the framework.



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Recertification Programme 2017 - 2020

Feedback from midwives about the changes to the Recertification Programme, giving midwives much greater choice around their post registration education, continues to be positive.

The [requirements of the programme](#) are set out simply and clearly on the Council's website. You can also download a [planner](#), as well as a [schedule of professional activities](#) to help you to plan ahead to meet the different requirements.

The Council has also produced electronic records for [continuing education and professional activities](#) which you can download and use to record your continuing midwifery education.

Please don't hesitate to contact [Andy Crosby](#) at the council if you have any concerns or questions about your participation in the Recertification Programme. She is always ready to work with midwives to formulate a reasonable plan to ensure that all requirements are met



Red eye reflex assessment in newborns

In the September 2016 eMidpoint, the Council drew midwives' attention to the [Health Quality and Safety Commission report](#) on delayed recognition of lack of red reflex in a newborn. This followed a case where a newborn baby failed to receive a red reflex assessment which is part of routine tests following birth and in the early weeks of life. As a result, the child now has vision loss in one eye.

The Health and Disability Commissioner has now released his [report](#) into the 2014 case which prompted the DHB review and the subsequent HQSC report. The HDC report highlights concerns around accurate red eye reflex assessment, adequate documentation, and systems for follow up

The Council strongly recommends that all midwives take the time to read the HQSC report and watch the Auckland DHB's [online learning video Red Reflex Test](#).



Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal decision

In May, the Tribunal considered a number of charges relating to inadequate referral, inadequate/inappropriate assessment and care, and putting the safety of the woman at

It ordered the Midwife be censured and placed conditions on her practice for a period of 3 years once her suspension is lifted by the Midwifery Council. The Tribunal also

risk on the part of midwife **Tracey Jane Goff**. Ms Goff's competence had been reviewed by the Council in April 2015 and as a result of the review findings, Ms Goff was suspended from practice pending the successful completion of an extensive programme of education.

The Tribunal found the charge was established and that Ms Goff's conduct constituted professional misconduct.

recommended that the Midwife undergo formal counselling and take advantage of any advice and assistance that may be given to her. The Midwife was ordered to pay costs of \$9,000 and was declined permanent suppression of her name.

The [full decision](#) may be found on the HPDT website.



National Midwifery Forum 6 October Wellington

The annual National Midwifery Forum will be held in Wellington on Friday 6 October at the Brentwood Hotel 10am – 4.00pm. The event will again be livestreamed which means midwives and others interested in the forum will be able to view the forum from anywhere in the country or even overseas.

If you intend to attend either in person or electronically, you need to contact the [Council](#) so we can include you in our link or provide food at the hotel.

Topics include workforce issues (Emmanuel Jo from Health Workforce NZ will give a presentation on midwifery workforce modelling), systemic workplace problems impacting on midwifery practice, changes to the recertification programme, and health concerns.

DIARY



6 October

National Midwifery Forum, Brentwood Hotel, Wellington - will be streamed

19-20 October

Joan Donley Research Forum, Christchurch

16-17 November

CLEAR International Regulatory Congress, Melbourne

Council offices



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If you are not a practising midwife and do not wish to receive this newsletter please contact info@midwiferycouncil.health.nz



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