

Midpoint

Midwifery Council New Zealand Newsletter

Guardians of Professional standards

► August 2019



Already the year is half over and there has been plenty to occupy us. Looking back over the past six months, I can advise that the Council has:

- had several meetings with the Ministry of Health to discuss workforce issues from a regulatory perspective
- met face to face with the College every three months
- oriented three new staff to new and reconfigured positions within the secretariat
- revised the 2018-21 strategic plan, with particular focus on scoping the project on the New Zealand midwife which will lead to review of the scope of practice, competencies for entry to the register and standards for pre-registration education
- led the Trans-Tasman project on the development of a joint outcomes-based assessment framework for registration of internationally qualified midwives
- scoped putting the National Midwifery Exam online by December 2019, with the contract now signed and implementation work underway
- been in discussion with the other health regulatory authorities on the implications of the April 2019 changes to the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act
- held four Council meetings
- had its annual financial audit.

Sharron Cole, CEO/Registrar,

Midwifery Council of New Zealand



Farewelling Judith

In July we had sad news about former secretariat staff member Judith Norman. A long serving member of the secretariat staff between February 2009 and December 2018, Judith sadly passed away on 27 July.

In her time with the secretariat, Judith's area of responsibility was education and she established warm relationships with many midwives and students.

Judith decided during 2018 that she wanted more time to devote to her family, her music, gardening and other interests. Judith was a talented musician, she was a former member of the Orpheus Choir and a long-time valued member and second soprano of the choir of the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul.

All the staff who worked alongside Judith, both within the Council but also amongst the other Councils/Board with whom we share offices, are deeply saddened by her death. We will miss her very much.

Be Sure.

In 2016, the Council began a "Changing perceptions" campaign, aimed at lifting its visibility as the responsible authority which regulates midwives. Our intention has been to run in parallel a series of information sheets – Be Safe which are aimed at midwife readers and have been developed over the past few years and now Be Sure which are intended for consumers.

Be Sure. is a campaign to encourage women to check their midwife is registered and that their Annual Practising Certificate is up to date. There will also be information sheets giving consumers more information about the various competence, health and conduct provisions within the HPCA Act and how these processes work within the Midwifery Council. We have now put the first three Be Sure PDFs on the [website](#).

Justin Murrell

The secretariat team has been joined by Justin Murrell, the newly appointed Operations Manager.

Justin has considerable management experience from his work in government organisations including the Earthquake Commission and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. He enjoys the challenge of business improvement and views the new created role at the Council as an



opportunity to work in the more diverse role of manager within a smaller office.

When not in the office, Justin spends his time with his wife and two children, enjoying film and music, baking and travelling, and the fullness of family life.

The position of Operations Manager is a new one, arising from a recommendation of last year's organisational review. Justin manages the administration staff, reviews and implements the streamlining of business processes, and coordinates the support resources of the office. The role includes office management, with contributions to financial management, IT oversight and health and safety monitoring.

NZ Midwife Project

The Council's first objective in its current strategic plan is to lead a review on the role and scope of practice of the New Zealand midwife into the 2020s, to set the standards of clinical competence and to review the pre-registration education standards. This is a major piece of work which we will take some 18 – 24 months and will involve robust stakeholder participation and engagement.

After further discussion with the Ministry of Health on what support they will give the project as it sits squarely within its Maternity Action Plan, the Council will move to phase one which is the confirmation of collaborative partners and the establishment of a project reference group.

We will post regular project updates in eMidpoint, particularly as we seek to engage with key stakeholders throughout 2020.



Pink for a good cause

Breast Cancer Awareness Week fundraiser

Nicky Jackson, our Midwifery Advisor who works part time at the Council, organised a breast cancer fundraiser and awareness raising morning tea for staff of the eight regulatory authorities who work on the sixth floor. Pink was very much the theme of the day.

Amendments to the HPCA Act 2003

Amendments to the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 came into affect earlier this year.

There are several significant changes to the ways in which health regulatory authorities will function following the amendments to the HPCA Act on 11 April. The amendments include:

- Effective and respectful interaction with Māori in setting the standards of clinical competence, cultural; competence and ethical conduct (s118(i))
- Interdisciplinary collaboration and co-operation (s118ja)
- Establishing a naming policy – when the authority may publish any order it has made under the HPCA Act (s157A)
- Providing copies of Orders and directives - “to any person who works in partnership or association with the practitioner” (s156A(2) (iii))

- Workforce reporting (s134A)
- 3-5 yearly performance reviews of authorities (s122A)
- Authorities may be amalgamated on the recommendation of the Minister
- Authorities must now pay the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal’s administration costs (s103A)

A number of these amendments require actions which must be completed by 11 April 2020.

The Council is currently working on a draft Naming Policy with several other authorities and it is planned to have this out for consultation amongst midwives and other stakeholders later in October.

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DIARY



9 August

Council meeting

11 September

Midwifery Educator forum to discuss recertification programme

12-13 September 2019

Joan Donley Midwifery Research Forum, Palmerston North

4 October

Council meeting

October - November

Consultation on draft Naming Policy



Council offices

The Council is located on:

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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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