



September 2015

Important dates

- 1 October – Council meeting
- 6 November – National Midwifery Forum, Hamilton
- 27 November – Council meeting
- 7 December – National Midwifery Examination

August Council meeting

At the Council meeting on 20/21 August, items of interest include:

- [Midwifery Council response](#) to Nathan Coronial Inquest recommendations
- Reports on meetings with Health and Disability Commissioner and Chief Coroner. The Council is pleased that the Chief Coroner has issued Practice Note 2015/01 which has gone out to the coroners and will apply from 1 July. This now requires the Coroner at the time he/she makes the decision to hold an inquest to identify the issues which are to be addressed. The Coroner must also identify and notify persons or organisations who have an interest in the matter or in the outcome of the inquiry.
- [Rethinking Regulation](#) – new report by UK Professional Standards Authority which asserts that healthcare regulation in the UK is incoherent, expensive, requires a radical overhaul and there is “little evidence” as to how effective regulation currently is in improving health and social care standards.
The Council acknowledged that the model of health regulation in New Zealand is different from the UK. However, there are implications for the work and strategic direction of the Council, particularly around the “different approaches to different levels of risk” and the idea that “the business of regulation is the elimination of risk as opposed to the reduction of harms”. It also discussed its role in supporting professional conduct and behaviour, as disengagement and lack of professionalism have been identified as significant contributors to “competence drift”.
- [Preventing small problems becoming large problems](#) - a research report from the UK Health and Care Professions Council about competence and disengagement and its implications for understanding the competence of health and care professionals. The report explores perceptions of the triggers for disengagement in health professionals and the ways in which small problems may be prevented from escalating into complaints in health care settings.
Again the Council acknowledged that the UK health care system is different to New Zealand’s but there is interesting and relevant discussion on the emerging discourses of competence and the range of behaviours and circumstances associated with disengagement which may give rise to concerns about practice and can lead to complaints.

National Midwifery Forum

The National Midwifery Forum will be held in Hamilton at the [Bill Gallagher Events Centre Wintec](#) on Friday 6 November. As usual, the day will begin with tea/coffee on arrival from around 9.15am, with a Mihi Whakatau to begin the programme at 10am. The forum will end at 4pm.

- Strategic review and changes – e.g. s36 competence assessors
- Further trend/risk analysis data
- Changing the Conversation Project
- Rethinking Regulation
- Preventing small problems becoming large problems –engagement, disengagement
- Recertification Programme review timeframe
- Pre-registration midwifery education standards

Recertification Programme

We are now halfway through the practising year so we remind midwives to log on to their profile at the website to check what Recertification Programme requirements are due before the issue of APCs in February/March. This gives you sufficient time to make necessary course bookings.

We also remind midwives that the current 2014-17 Midwifery Practice Day with its particular topics needs to be completed within the period 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2017. Midwives who did not undertake a Practice Day between 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2014 have been required to complete a self-learning package which most have found rather more onerous than attendance at a Practice Day. Our records indicate more than 1500 of the 3000 midwives with practising certificates have already attended the Practice Day which is really good news.



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