

Midpoint

Midwifery Council New Zealand Newsletter

Guardians of Professional standards

► September 2018



It's been quite a momentous time since the last newsletter – the spotlight on midwifery workforce shortages, both core and LMC, the whole of maternity sector workshop in July with the confirmation that maternity is a government priority, and after 30 years at the helm, Karen Guilliland's announcement of her retirement at the Rotorua College conference.

Birth and the role played by midwives have also been in the media spotlight with the birth of baby Neve to the Prime Minister Jacinda Aderm and a son to the Associate Minister of Health Julie Ann Genter. Not so high profile but of supreme importance to me and our extended family was the birth of our first grandchild Theodore aka Teddy to our daughter Rebecca and her husband Brendan. It is immensely gratifying after so many years involvement in the maternity and midwifery sector to witness the crucial role midwives played in the process from Rebecca's early pregnancy through to the postpartum period in assisting Teddy's journey into this world.

The secretariat is never too busy to talk to midwives. If there is something you are concerned about or just want to check out, please give us a phone call or send an email.

Sharron Cole, CEO/Registrar,

Midwifery Council of New Zealand

At the Council secretariat, work continues to implement the organisational review, with the new Policy and Risk Advisor Leon Mitchell in place and the business process

While the rapidly evolving nature of IT makes it impossible to fully future proof IT systems, there is a need to keep pace with new technology, especially the new app-based

analysis complete. We are now moving into the next phase which is the proposed future structure of the secretariat, informed by the intelligence gained in the review and process analysis.

approach. With this in mind, the Council has approved the proposal to implement a new IT engagement management system over the next year..



New Be Safe paper

The fifth Be Safe paper on [midwives' health](#) has been released and is available as a downloadable PDF on the website. The document sets out the Council's expectations and its approach to managing midwives' health conditions.

Although the primary purpose of the Council is to protect the health and safety of the public, it also makes every effort to assist and support midwives through the health processes.

Midwives acting in a “support” role

From time to time, cases are referred to the Council where the midwife has handed over care of a woman but they remain in the clinical environment under the stance that they are “supporting the woman”.

If something then goes amiss, some midwives believe they have no professional responsibility for events that occur within the clinical context.

The Council's position is that midwives have a duty of care to act at all times as a health professional with clients and their families.

When a midwife is with a woman in a clinical context she is always in attendance as a midwife.

It is not appropriate for midwives to advise they are ‘only attending as a support person’ for their clients.

They are attending as a midwife because support and advocacy are essential components of midwifery care.

The Council has now published on the website a [statement](#) on the matter.

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Strategic plan 2018-21

The Council held a strategic planning session earlier in the year and adopted shorter mission and values statements.

Mission

To protect the health and safety of women and babies experiencing midwifery care in New Zealand through an effective and efficient regulatory framework

Values

We will be known for our:

Integrity, fairness and accountability

The high level plan with its five strategic objectives and outcomes is on the [website](#).



Stolen or lost plastic APC cards

If your plastic APC card is either lost or stolen, you should immediately notify both the Police and the Council. You need to contact the Police because midwives are able to prescribe certain controlled medicines and the stolen/lost card may be used to fraudulently prescribe medicines. The Council can order a replacement for you at the cost of \$25, should you wish to have another card.

5 October 2018

Council meeting

25 November 2018

Council meeting

DIARY



Council offices

The Council is located on:

Level 5

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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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