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Welcome to the first issue of Midpoint for 2022. The new year has already thrown up a range of challenges and opportunities for the Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | the Midwifery Council.

The Council met in Wellington in February and unanimously decided to rework the structure of the Board to reflect their commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Accordingly, the Board will now adopt a Co-Chair model where Tangata

Whenua and Tangata Tiriti work in equal partnership. Ngarangi Pritchard and Kerry Adams were appointed as Co-Chairs for 2022. The Board is extremely grateful for the outgoing Chair, Chris Mallon, for her mahi and service since she was appointed

in 2015. Chris remains on the Board and will work alongside Ngarangi and Kerry providing advice and guidance as they navigate their new roles.

I want to welcome all the Aotearoa | New Zealand graduates who have successfully completed their programmes of education and entered the Register of Midwives and also those Internationally Qualified Midwives who have entered the register and commenced practice here in Aotearoa | New Zealand.

As I write this message, Omicron is surging in our communities, and I know that this will add additional pressures to you all as you continue to support whānau in their pregnancy and birth journey. The Council and staff want to acknowledge you in your mahi with whānau during in this stressful time.

Dr Susan Calvert

Tumu Whakahaere me te Pouroki | Chief Executive and Registrar

Introducing Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | the Midwifery Council Co-Chairs

Ngarangi Pritchard
Tangata Whenua Co-Chair



Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa
Kakanui te maunga
Matariwa te punawai
Mataatua te waka
Te Ehutu te hapu
Te Kaha te marae
Te Whanau A Apanui, Ngati Porou
me Rongowhakaata oku iwi
Ko Ngarangi Pritchard ahau
Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena
koutou katoa

I reside in Wellington with my husband. We have three sons, their partners and four beautiful mokopuna. They are my whānau, my world. My journey into midwifery began in 1974. I registered as an Enrolled Nurse in 1975, Registered Nurse 1994, and Registered Midwife 1995. I worked as an LMC caring for Maori and Pacific whanau until 2016. I currently work in the women's clinics at Wellington hospital as an antenatal clinic coordinator. I have been an MFYP mentor, MSR and MFYP reviewer for NZCOM, Maori and Pacific support for midwifery students at the School of Midwifery at Otago Polytechnic. I recently completed my last LMC whānau care and am available to do postnatal care. I am overwhelmed and humbled by my appointment as Tangata Whenua Co-Chair of the Midwifery Council. I am looking forward to working alongside my Tangata Tiriti colleague Kerry and all members of the Midwifery Council.

Kerry Adams
Tangata Tiriti Co-Chair



I live in Dunedin with my husband and our two awesome almost adult children.

I am currently a Senior Lecturer at the School of Midwifery at Otago Polytechnic where I teach in both the undergraduate and postgraduate programme.

I am a Doctoral student at AUT, with my research interest in midwifery

leadership. In the past I have been the Otago Regional Chair for NZCOM, the midwifery advisor on the Newborn Metabolic Screening advisory group, an Expert Advisor for the HDC and a member of the Professional Conduct Committee for Midwifery Council.

I have been fortunate to have worked in all maternity settings both in Wellington and Dunedin and remain passionate about promoting safe and respectful care for women, babies and whānau.

I am humbled by my appointment as Tangata Tiriti Co-Chair of the Midwifery Council and I am committed and excited to be working within a new Te Tiriti o Waitangi Council framework alongside my Tangata Whenua colleague, Ngarangi.

Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu ki Hine Pae Ora | the Aotearoa Midwifery Project

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is our country's foundational document. It provides a framework for partnership that champions mana ōrite | equality, mahi kotahitanga | working together and rangatiratanga | chieftainship.

Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu ki Hine Pae Ora | the Aotearoa Midwifery Project has led us to a gateway. This revised scope is whānau centred, inclusive and affirms and enables kahu pōkai | midwives to practise in ways that meet the needs of the whānau they work alongside.

I want to acknowledge that, in these uncertain times, the Council is asking you to review the Scope of Practice and to consider what this means for you as practitioners.

Before you provide your feedback, please take the time to explore and discuss the revised Scope using the resources that can be found here.

As part of the process of seeking feedback, we will host a number of wānanga and webinars. These will be scheduled towards the end of March and we will let you know the dates as soon as they are confirmed.

Once again, I want to thank you for taking the time to review and consider the revised Scope of Practice and to provide us with your feedback and questions.

Feedback closes 12 April 2022

APC update

We have again reached the time when Annual Practising Certificates need to be renewed.

Remember, all midwives who engage in practice need to have a practising certificate. Practise is not just clinical practice but also education, quality improvement, regulation, professional policy advice etc... Any role that requires you to use your midwifery knowledge and skills and that impacts on public safety. Midwives are required to hold a practising certificate if they are providing antenatal education or lactation services because these are both skills that sit under the midwifery scope of practice.

The Council acknowledges that there have been challenges completing face to face education during 2021 and that this may continue during 2022. If you are overdue a requirement by more than 4 months, please email us education@midwiferycouncil.health.nz to discuss.

If you are not going to practise, you will need to log in to MyMCANZ complete the non-practising process and change your status to 'Non practising'. Log into [MyMCANZ](#) to complete your application from March 4 onwards.

Register review

One of the recommendations from the Council performance review was that it continue to tidy up the Register.

One action from this is for the Council to establish a regular review of the Register. The processes for this are clearly outlined in the HPCA Act. After APC renewals ends the Council will contact all midwives who held an APC in 2021-2022 to ascertain if they are practising. Midwives who are not practising and who have not renewed will be given options regarding ongoing registration. The Council will also be in contact with those midwives on the register who have not held an APC for a number of years regarding the cancellation of their registration. Further details about these processes will be provided to those midwives who are impacted. The Register needs to be an accurate reflection of practising and non-practising midwives who are based in Aotearoa | New Zealand.

Recertification changes

After considering feedback about proposed changes to the Recertification programme, the Council met in December 2021 and agreed to implement both proposals:

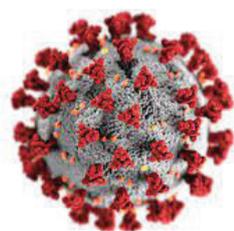
- That the Council mandates the content of the continuing education component of the Recertification Programme for midwives.
- That the Council makes completion of the course Integrating Abortion Care into the Midwifery Scope of Practice mandatory for the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

The Council also agreed to ask the schools of midwifery to change the name of the course so that it more accurately the content – the mandatory course is now called "Introduction to the Abortion Legislation and Midwifery Roles and Responsibilities"

In 2022-2023 all midwives will be required to complete the short course. This will be part of their minimum continuing midwifery education requirements. The Council wants to reiterate that completion of the course will not enable midwives to provide care. It is about understanding the law change. There are no changes to other components of the Recertification Programme at this time.

The Council appreciates that it has been challenging booking onto workshops and acknowledges that this is currently problematic. The Council is aware that a number of providers have developed online learning for the Midwifery Emergency Skills Refresher course with peer review of practical skills. This is encouraged and supported during these times of change.

The Council encourages midwives to ensure that they have added their completed education to their MyMCANZ portal prior to applying for their practising certificate.



Vaccine mandate update

Recent changes to the vaccine mandate now require all midwives who engage in face to face clinical care to comply with the requirements for boosters. Links to the legislation and information about the mandate can be found on the Ministry of Health [website](#).

Voluntary Bonding Scheme 2022 Intake

The Voluntary Bonding Scheme is an initiative run by the Ministry of Health to encourage newly qualified health professionals to work in the communities and specialties that need them most, and to retain essential health professionals throughout Aotearoa.

Those on the scheme can receive payments to help repay their student loan or as top-up income for those without a loan. If you are a new-graduate midwife:

- who completed undergraduate studies in 2021 (or early 2022), and
- you intend to work in an eligible hard-to-staff community for at least three and up to five years,

you may be eligible to register for the 2022 Intake of the Scheme.

If your registration is accepted and you meet the terms and conditions, a bond payment of \$10,500 (after tax) is available after the completion of a minimum of three years' service, and up to two additional payments of \$3,500 after a fourth and fifth year. The six-week Registration of Interest period for the Scheme's 2022 intake is open from **14 February to 27 March 2022**. Registration is via an online web-form available on the Ministry's website.

If you have entered your name and email address and not received a registration link, please do try again now, and also contact the Ministry of Health at vbs@health.govt.nz.

DHB-employed	Lead-maternity Carers (LMCs)
Auckland DHB	Auckland DHB
Bay of Plenty DHB	Bay of Plenty DHB
Canterbury DHB	Counties Manukau DHB
Capital & Coast DHB	Dunedin City
Counties Manukau DHB	Hutt Valley DHB
Dunedin City	Lakes DHB
Hawkes Bay DHB	MidCentral DHB
Hutt Valley DHB	Northland DHB
Lakes DHB	Queenstown Lakes District
MidCentral DHB	Waikato DHB
Northland DHB	Waitemata DHB
Waikato DHB	Whanganui DHB
Waitemata DHB	

To find out more, visit the [Ministry website](#).

Health Practitioner Disciplinary Tribunal ruling

In October 2021, the HPDT found [proven charges involving informed consent, providing misleading information, failing to keep adequate documentation, and failing to adequately explain to the patient what medications she had received during labour against midwife Helen Marie Bakker](#).

The Tribunal ruled this conduct amounted to professional misconduct on Ms Bakker's part.

As a result of the charges being proven, RM Bakker was fined, had to pay costs and was prohibited for supervising midwifery students for a period of 12 months.

What we have done..

- Submitted and then presented to the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Select Committee
- Progressed work on the standards of competence
- Registered a number of Aotearoa graduates and internationally qualified midwives who have entered the workforce
- Attended the Prescribing Safety hui
- Worked on joint standards for prescribing health practitioners



- 4th March online APC applications open
- 12 April 2022 Feedback on revised Scope closes
- 24 March the Council meets

Online APCs applications open on March 4, 2022