

# Midpoint

## Midwifery Council New Zealand Newsletter

Guardians of Professional standards

▶ August 2020

### Kia ora koutou

**The Council wishes to acknowledge the essential work that midwives continue to provide to wāhine and their whānau in these challenging and uncertain times.**

The Council reminds midwives that they should refer to the [Ministry of Health](#) website for practice information regarding COVID-19. It also recommends that midwives consider downloading the Awhina App so that they can be advised when updates are made to the information for health providers.

The Ministry has also advised that updated occupational health and safety advice for midwives has been provided and along with all other information can be found [here](#).

At the recent Council meeting discussion was held regarding strategic projects including the Aotearoa Midwifery Project. The Council was also briefed on the review of the National Midwifery Exam and the work that is progressing on that.

The requirements of the overseas competence programme were discussed especially the need for internationally qualified midwives, including those educated in Australia, to prioritise completion of the cultural competence course in order to be able to practice in a culturally safe way in New Zealand.

A consequence of this discussion was that the Council amended its Internationally Qualified and TTMRA Registration policies making completion of the course mandatory before midwives will be granted their first APC.

The implications of this are that this group of midwives must complete the cultural competence course requirement before they are able to commence practice in any form in New Zealand. The course is available online and can be accessed internationally. Midwives must be registered in New Zealand however before they can be granted access.

*Chris Mallon, Chair and Dr Sue Calvert,  
CE/Registrar, Midwifery Council*

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# 2020

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE MIDWIFE



Work continues on the Council's new database with testing of parts of the new system underway. It is the Council's expectation that the new system will go live in 2020.

Further communications will occur about this, however at this time it is essential that [all midwives login](#) to the current system and ensure they are able to access their information and that their contact details are correct. A quick task for midwives is to ensure that they know their registration number - and if they don't, that they know where to find it.

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## No more plastic APC cards

With the move to the new database system, plastic APC cards will become a thing of the past.

The online register will be the only source of information about a midwife's practising status.



## Privacy Act

**Changes to the Privacy Act are expected to occur in late 2020**

Midwives are directed to [Office of the Privacy Commissioner](#) website where information and online learning regarding the change is provided.

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# Guardians of professional standards

**25th September 2020**

Council meeting

# DIARY

*Apart from its regular meetings, the Council continues to meet on an as need basis to consider matters related to COVID-19.*



## Council offices

The Council is located on:

Level 5

22-28 Willeston St

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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](mailto:info@midwiferycouncil.health.nz)



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Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu

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