

Midpoint

Midwifery Council New Zealand Newsletter

Guardians of Professional standards

► November 2020

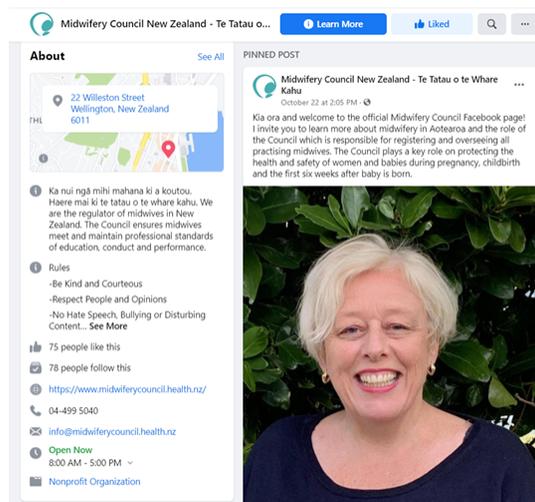
Kia ora koutou

2020 is almost over and there have been many challenges and hurdles that have been prominent over the year.

Midwives have continued to provide care to women and to work with and navigate the many challenges that have been put in front of them. The Council and staff have been mindful of this and acknowledge once again the tenacity and commitment of members of the workforce at this challenging time.

This newsletter provides an update on a number of matters of interest and relevance to midwives. It also provides some questions and answers around the changes to the Recertification Programme requirements that were put on hold as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic.

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

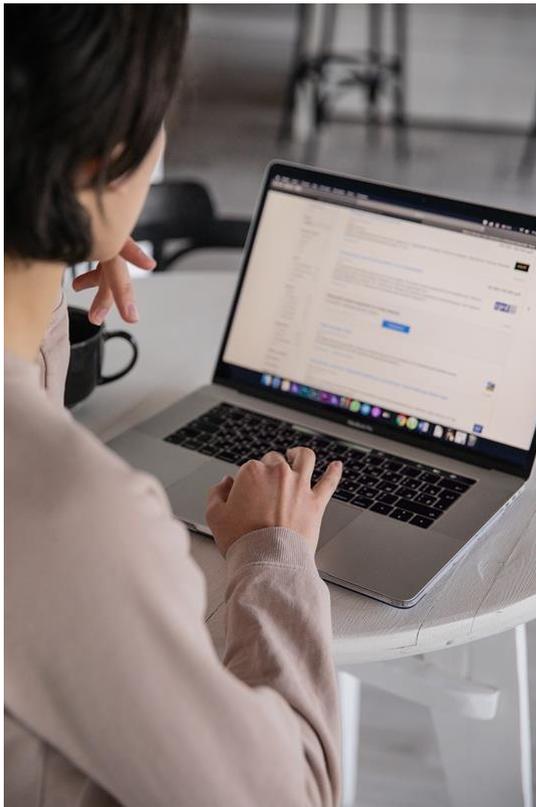


The Council on Facebook

The Council is thrilled to announce that it has launched a Facebook page. This is primarily a page where we will advise of news and updates of matters related to our work.

The Council hopes that you will check in with the page as another means of keeping up to date with regulatory matters.

You can find our Facebook page by searching @midwiferycouncil on Facebook.



MyMCANZ

The move to the new database and website is well underway. Staff at the Council are busy reviewing and updating information for our new website, and user acceptance testing is ongoing.

The Council reminds all midwives that they will need to know their Midwifery Council registration number. This is essential to be able to login and apply for practising certificates in February. The Council also advises midwives that a key change in process is that they will be responsible for providing evidence of completion of required components of the Recertification Programme.

Education providers will need to retain records as they currently do now but do not need to provide these to the Council. More information will be provided as soon as the Council is advised.

Aotearoa Midwifery Project

Work continues on the project with the collaborative reference group meeting frequently. Presentations about the project via zoom have been made to midwives across New Zealand.

The Council is grateful to the members of the Collaborative Reference Group who have invested many hours in this project – their skills and expertise are invaluable.

It is anticipated that a draft scope of practice statement will be tabled with the Council for its consideration in November. Once the Council has considered this material the next step is an extensive round of consultation with Māori, Pasifika, consumers, midwives and other key stakeholders. Please keep an eye on our face book page, website and your emails as a way of participating in the first quarter of 2021.

Bachelor of Midwifery

Registered Health professionals seeking entry into Bachelor of Midwifery Degrees



The Council approved a proposal from ARA institute of Canterbury and Otago Polytechnic for extended amounts of credit that can be transferred for currently registered and practising health professionals from their first health qualification into the Bachelor of Midwifery programme. There are certain criteria that must be met, however this proposal means that the time required to complete these programmes of education can be reduced.

It is hoped that these programmes will encourage other health professionals to enter midwifery.



Panadeine

Changes to the classification of combination codeine products ie Panadeine to prescription only medicines, mean that effective from 5th November 2020 midwives are no longer able to prescribe it.

The Council is currently working with the Ministry of Health looking at the Misuse of Drugs regulations and the implications on prescribing for midwives. The Council hopes to provide midwives with more updates as our conversations progress.

Expressions of interest

The Council is seeking [expressions of interest](#) from suitably qualified midwives who wish to be considered as members of professional conduct or competence review panels and supervisors. Applications close on 20th November 2020.

Changes to the Privacy Act

Changes to the Privacy Act come into force on 1st December 2020. The Health Information Privacy Code has also been revised and updated. Key changes required in the Act



include the introduction of mandatory reporting of privacy breaches when they meet the 'notifiable privacy breach' threshold.

An online tool has been developed by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner (OPC) that assists in deciding if a breach is reportable and for reporting. Midwives are encouraged to review online education provided by the OPC and to ensure they have updated policies and procedures to support their information management practice and so that they know what to do should a breach occur. Further information is provided on the [OPC website](#).

Guardians of professional standards

Recertification Programme 2020

The Council advised midwives in early 2020 that due to the demands on the workforce of the COVID 19 pandemic that it had placed requirements of the Recertification Programme on hold until 31st December 2020.

At its meeting in September 2020 the Council agreed to amend its decision and it has extended the timeframe to 31st March 2021 acknowledging at the same time that despite this waiver of requirements large numbers of midwives have continued to engage in the programme. What does this mean in reality? The following questions and answers help to clarify:

Q: I understand that the Council decided that all recertification activities have been put on hold during 2020 and that I did not need to complete any requirement during this time. Because of many factors I have not been able to complete the education that I normally would. Given that the Council has granted this extension am I able to declare that I am up to date with requirements?

Q: I completed my emergency day in August 2020, when do I need to complete it again?

A: August 2021.

Q: My MSR was due in June 2020 and I completed it on time. When do I need to complete it next?

A: Within three years of last completion unless you are required to complete it earlier.

Q: My MSR was due in June 2020 and I have not completed it, when do I need to complete it by?

A: Before June 2021

Q: My MSR is due in January 2021 when do I need to complete it by?

A: January 2022 but you are encouraged to complete it earlier if you can.

A: If you were up to date on 1st April 2020 and have not engaged in recertification activities, then because of the Council decision you can declare that you have met the requirements. If you were not up to date with requirements on the 1st April 2020 you cannot.

Q: I was due to complete my emergency day in September 2020 but have been unable to do so. Do I have to complete it before I apply for my APC?

A: No, you do not need to complete your emergency day until September 2021 but you can do it earlier if you want to.

Q: I have not been able to attend face to face education during 2020. I know I don't need to collect hours but does online learning count.

A: Yes online learning does count.

Q: I usually attend a number of face to face meetings as part of my professional activities but this year they have been by Zoom. I know I don't need to complete these activities but if I choose to, do Zoom professional meetings count?

A: Yes

DIARY



27th November 2020

Council meeting

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:

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