

# Midpoint

## Midwifery Council New Zealand Newsletter

Guardians of Professional standards

▶ April 2020 COVID-19 v5



### **Kia ora koutou**

The Council wishes to acknowledge the care that midwives across the sector continue to provide to women and their whanau during these challenging times.

Midwives are experts in the provision of maternity care to women and their whanau and COVID-19 has meant that midwives have had to adapt and incorporate new knowledge and skill into what is midwifery practice. As essential front line workers midwives have continued to provide high quality care through level 4. The Council is aware that many associated services have changed their provision or ceased at this time and acknowledges that midwives have responded to these changes.

The way that you have worked and the way you have adapted your practice has ensured that appropriate care is provided and that risks to midwives, their families, and to women and their whanau are minimised. Thank you for your continued commitment.

As we move towards status level three it is important that you continue to be vigilant and adapt your practice according to best practice guidance. The Council reminds midwives that they need to work within the parameters of the midwifery scope of practice and that they should always work within the limits of their competence.

*Dr Sue Calvert, CE/Registrar,*

*Midwifery Council*

# Staying healthy and well

The reality of the pandemic and the changes to our lives and practice is identified as having the potential to create anxiety and place additional stressors on individuals in practice and their family lives. Being with women and providing care regardless of their health status can also increase the stresses faced by practitioners.

There are many avenues for support and advice for clinicians and members of the public to assist them at this time. The Ministry continues to provide advice and support to assist wellbeing at this time via its 1737 support line and on their [webiste](#).

The Ministry [maternity pages](#) provide clear advice and guidance for midwives about their responsibilities should they exhibit symptoms or be exposed to individuals.

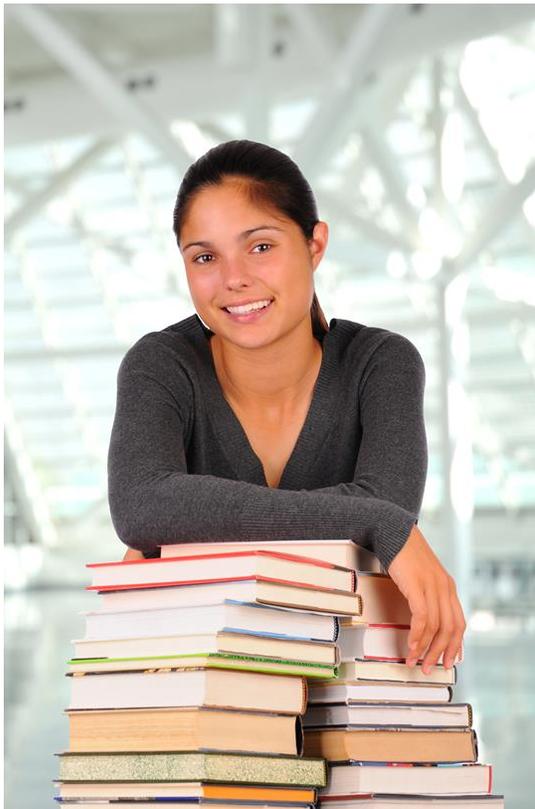
In addition, new resources have been developed by the [Health Quality and Safety Commission](#) that describe how to keep our bubbles safe.

One of the Council's key roles is to ensure that practitioners are fit and safe to practise. This is especially vital now.

There are specific sections within the HPCA Act that relate to notifications of inability to perform required functions. Section 45 makes it very explicit that if a health practitioner has reason to believe that another health practitioner cannot perform the functions required for their profession, then they must notify the registrar of the relevant authority. Health notifications can be made via our dedicated [email address](#).

Many matters do not need to be referred but confidential advice and guidance can be provided by firstly contacting the registrar.

She can be contacted on 04 4988996.



## Midwifery students

**Students are a key part of the midwifery workforce and student learning is crucial.**

During the course of the lockdown the Council has continued to work with the schools of midwifery. This has been in an attempt to understand what potential impacts for students are.

The schools have been very adaptive in their way they have planned ongoing delivery and looked at issues facing students. The Council has also looked at what regulatory options and capabilities it has. Decisions cannot be made at this time until the full extent of the problem (if any) is known.

Discussion are ongoing with all relevant parties.

# 2020

# INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE MIDWIFE

## International Day of the Midwife

International Day of the Midwife (May 5) will occur during Alert Level 3, so there will be no opportunity for midwives to gather.

Midwives should visit the [College of Midwives site](#) or contact the [Publications and Web Manager](#) for activities and ways they can be involved during this time.



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# DIARY



### 1 May

Council meeting

*Please note that the Council is holding ad hoc meetings as required during this time.*

## Council offices

The Council is located on:

Level 5

22-28 Willeston St

Wellington

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PO Box 9644  
Wellington 6141



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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