

Midpoint

Midwifery Council New Zealand Newsletter

Guardians of Professional standards

► February 2019



It seems as if 2019 has just started and already it is February. Despite this greeting being a little late, the Council sends its best wishes for a fulfilling and successful 2019 to all midwives and other newsletter readers.

It is now time to apply for practising certificates for the 2019/20 year. Scroll down further for information on how to apply.

At the Council meeting on 1 February, Chris Mallon and Kerry Adams were re-elected as Chair and Deputy Chair. The key topic of discussion remained the current midwifery workforce situation. As I wrote in the December newsletter, the Council has no role in setting either remuneration or conditions of midwives. We are responsible though for ensuring that midwives are practising their profession in a manner that protects the health and safety of the public.

An overworked and stressed workforce places both the midwife and those for whom she is providing care at risk. During 2018, we worked on a number of fronts to bring our concerns to the attention of those who either set pay and conditions or have some influence over this and the Council is resolved to continue this in 2019.

As always, the Council welcomes contact from midwives or consumers who may have issues or just want some information. So often the issues can easily be sorted over the phone and everyone's stress levels are reduced. We look forward to hearing from you during 2019.

Sharron Cole, CEO/Registrar,

APC applications 2019/20 practising year

Online applications for 2019/20 annual practising certificates are now open.

The website page [Applying for your APC](#) will assist you in renewing your annual practising certificate. Please take the time to click on the link – you will find the information helpful. The fee remains at \$445, comprising \$395 Annual Practising Certificate + \$50 Disciplinary levy.

Forgotten password?

If you have forgotten your password, click on Login tab on website homepage and then click "Request new password". You will need to know the email address which is recorded for you in our Register. If you have difficulties, do not create a new account. Instead, please contact the Council 04 499 5040.

Payment

Payment must be made at the time of application, unless you are on the list from Hutt Valley, Wairarapa or Southern DHBs. If paying by credit card, you will be diverted to our credit card provider. Once payment has been successful, you still must proceed to the next screen to complete the application process. If you do not do so, your application remains incomplete and will not be received at the Council.

Declarations

The declaration regarding the Recertification Programme changed last year. It now reads: *I declare that I have met, or will meet within the next 6 months, the requirements of the Recertification Programme.*

If you tick this declaration, it is expected that you are either current with Recertification or have made bookings to become up to date. It also means that you understand your obligation to be up to date by 30 September 2019.

Late fee if applying after 31 March

If you have held a practising certificate during the 2018/19 practising year and wish to practise at any time in the first quarter of the 2019/20 year, you must complete your renewal application by 31 March.

If you renew after 31 March, an additional late fee of \$200 is payable as there are additional administrative requirements for the Council to complete.

Print completion screen and/or acknowledgment email

You should print off the completion screen and/or the acknowledgement of application email as this provides for your employer proof of your application and the email also provides a GST number.

You will receive an official receipt with your plastic APC card.



Reviewing the 2018 - 2019 strategic plan

The Council has already had its first meeting of the year. January 31st was a review and planning day, in which the Council reviewed progress made on its 2018–21 strategic plan and the organisational review.

The revised strategic plan will be posted on the website following the 15 March Council meeting.

The main revisions were strategic objectives one and two where review of the competencies for entry to register have been subsumed into a broader objective around the role of the midwife in the 2020s, and a concentration on engagement with consumer stakeholders and what evidence they require to be assured that the midwifery profession is competent, honest and reliable.

New faces on the secretariat

As advised in the December newsletter, three staff members moved on from the Council and we now have three new staff, Trudy Rook and Haare Stewart-Shaw who joined us after Wellington Anniversary weekend, and Andrea Babel who has joined us the beginning of February.

Nick Bennie and Judith Norman have been contracted back to spend time with the new staff during February/March so that the benefit of their knowledge and experience is not lost.

Andrea Babel

Operations Manager

Andrea has been involved in small business management for many years but over recent years, has worked in the health sector at the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners. Andrea is a details person and

Trudy Rook

Notifications Administrator

Trudy has a background in health regulation after spending many years working for the Medical Council of New Zealand where she was part of the wider registration team. Before this Trudy worked for Sky Television where her main role was office administration.

Trudy's main responsibilities are processing the notifications around midwives' fitness to practise, including competence, health and conduct. Trudy has also been appointed to the health and Safety committee and is very proactive with staff wellbeing.

Haare Stewart-Shaw

Programmes Administrator

Haare has a background in advisory and regulation. Before joining the Midwifery

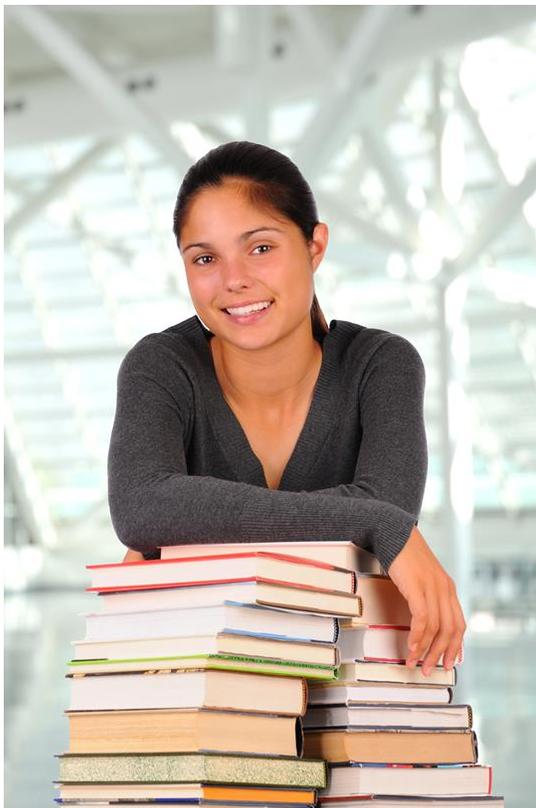
as the operations manager she will ensure the smooth running of all aspects of the Council. The role of the Operations Manager includes office management, IT systems oversight, health and safety monitoring and managing of support staff. Outside of work she enjoys the country lifestyle in the Wairarapa with her partner, two dogs and a large flock of chickens.

Council he worked at Chartered Accountants ANZ, where he was doing accounting regulation in the NZ regulation team. Haare has a Bachelor of Arts majoring in History and Political Science from the University of Victoria, Wellington.



Welcome Alison Eddy

The Council welcomes Alison Eddy in her new role as CEO of the College of Midwives. We have worked with Alison in a number of projects and issues over the years and are confident that the relationship between the Council as the midwifery regulator and the College as midwives' professional organisation will remain strong as we both have as our primary purpose a competent, fit midwifery workforce which provides safe, high quality and satisfying care.



Applying for an APC when your main midwifery practice is not-clinically based

There are a number of midwives who work in roles which require a midwifery qualification but the work is not clinically-based e.g. those engaged in post-graduate education, working on midwifery policy or providing professional practice advice.

These midwives need to have a current practising certificate as they are holding themselves out as professional midwives. They however may need assistance in understanding how they can declare that they have worked across the midwifery scope.

This [document](#) will assist midwives in this position in making application for an APC. Please contact Deputy Registrar Sue Calvert with any questions you may have.

Neonatal Encephalopathy Working Group

The Health Quality and Safety Commission is

If you would like to nominate suitable

calling for nominations from midwives for the Neonatal Encephalopathy Working Group (NEWG).

applicants or apply directly without nomination, please do through the document on the [PMMRC webpage](#) by **Friday 1 March 2019**.

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Role of Council and relationship with College

The Midwifery Council became a separate regulatory authority under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, now 14 years ago. There is still confusion over exactly what the Council does and how is it different from the College of Midwives.

In short, the Council is the regulator and the College is the professional organisation. But to give a fuller description of what each organisation does, the Council has published an information sheet [The Role of the Midwifery Council](#).

DIARY



6 March 2019

Midwifery Leaders day, hosted by the Council

15 March

Council meeting

3 May

Council meeting

Council offices

The Council is located on:

Level 5

22-28 Willeston St

Wellington

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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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Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu

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