

Midpoint

Midwifery Council New Zealand Newsletter

Guardians of Professional standards

▶ March 2020 COVID-19



Kia ora koutou

The COVID-19 pandemic will provide new challenges to the New Zealand health system. The Council is working closely with staff at the Ministry of Health to assist with a national workforce response. The Council understands that there are already pressures on the midwifery workforce and is sending the following requests out to the wider midwifery community who may be able to assist in this pandemic in different ways.

The Council has finalised an emergency practising certificate policy for midwives who are returning to practise especially to assist at this time. To ensure business continuity, today the Council secretariat are all working from home as we test our ability to work in new ways and function as an office offsite. I want to acknowledge my staff who have all reprioritised their work to support people entering and returning to the workforce at this time.

The following requests have all come from the Ministry, all are urgent. We ask that you give them your attention and forward to any midwives that you may know who have taken a break from practice or who may have recently retired who may be in a position to help. Processes, documents to complete and relevant people to contact are all listed in the email.

Dr Sue Calvert, CE/Registrar,

Midwifery Council of New Zealand

2020

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE MIDWIFE

Urgent request for staff for Healthline

Health professionals urgently needed to support Healthline's COVID-19 response.

Healthline is New Zealand's National Telehealth Service. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Healthline is experiencing unprecedented demand – up to 25,000 calls in a single day.

Health professionals are urgently needed for shifts at the Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch call centres.

Who can help temporarily staff Healthline?

- Currently registered nurses and midwives
- Nurses and midwives who have held an annual practising certificate in the past three years
- Paramedics who hold an authority to practice with an ambulance service
- All people will need good computer skills and telephone manner

Also needed: experienced clinicians who are willing to take a supervisory (clinical floor walker) role. Training will be provided before the first shift and experienced clinical staff will be available to provide clarification and ongoing support.

Shift details

Telephone operators

Day shift 7am to 7pm; Night shift 7pm to 7am

Supervisors

Day shift 8am to 5:30pm; Evening shift 5:00pm to 1am

Call centre locations

- Grafton, Auckland (parking provided)
- Lower Hutt, Wellington
- Russley, Christchurch (parking provided)

Reimbursement

Travel and accommodation expenses will be reimbursed. Healthline can employ you directly or you can be temporarily redeployed from your existing employer, who will be reimbursed by Healthline.

To enquire and confirm availability please contact Incident Management Team reps:

Caroline Tichbon

Caroline.tichbon@nra.health.nz 021524921

Rajneel Lal

Rajneel.Lal@nra.health.nz 021 311 968

You will be asked to provide your name, profession, employer (if currently employed), mobile number and email address.

If you have your APC number to hand, that would also be helpful.

Please do not contact Healthline or the Ministry of Health directly about this request.

Wellington based practitioners

The Ministry of Health are urgently seeking practitioners to join the national strategic approach to managing COVID-19. The Ministry requires practitioners who can

Please [register your interest](#) with us (marked attention: Sue Calvert) and confirm your availability to start on Friday 20 March 2020 in

immediately join the contact tracing initiative. Work will be Wellington based and commence on Friday 20 March. This is a paid role and you will be working for the organisation providing the health service.

Scope of work will include:

- Undertaking tracing of people who have been in close contact with a person with COVID-19

Wellington. We will then share this information with the Ministry.

The Ministry and ourselves will continue to update you on the workforce requirements as they will likely be seeking practitioners to work in more clinically specialised roles as they scale up the workforce as part of the response to COVID-19.

The Ministry thanks you for your on-going support with this.

Return to work to help manage COVID-19

The MOH are seeking expressions of interest from practitioners who have let their APC lapse and would like to return to work for a limited amount of time as part of the national strategic approach to managing COVID-19.

In the first instance, we are seeking practitioners who can immediately join the Healthline and contact tracing initiatives.

Scope of work will include:

- Providing initial and on-going advice to members of the public
- Undertaking tracing of people who have been in close contact with a person with COVID-19.

The MOH will continue to update you on the workforce requirements as we will likely be seeking practitioners to work in more clinically specialised roles as we scale up the workforce as part of our response to COVID-19.

Key points to note:

- This is a paid role and you will be working for the organisation providing the health service

- As part of your expression of interest, please provide the following information:

- o Name
- o Date of Birth
- o Physical address
- o Telephone and email
- o When you last held an APC
- o What scope of practice you held
- o Your practitioner/registration number
- Whether you would like a non-contact or contact role (or both)
- Confirmation of your interest to be considered for future roles as they become available
- You will be required to apply for an APC with the relevant Responsible Authority with the normal requirements in place – RAs will ensure the process is as efficient as possible, with skills matched appropriately, whilst continuing to ensure public protection remains the key priority.

Please register your interest by filling in this [form](#).

Thank you for your on-going support as we continue to take steps to manage the strategic response to COVID-19. If you have any questions please get in touch using workforceresponse@accent.net.nz

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DIARY



19/20 March

Council meeting and strategic planning day



Council offices

The Council is located on:

Level 5

22-28 Willeston St

Wellington

Midwifery Council of New Zealand

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



Midwifery Council
Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu

www.midwiferycouncil.health.nz

Address:
Level 5 (reception)

Contact:
Phone: +64 (4) 499 5040

22 Willeston Street
Wellington Central
Wellington 6011

PO Box 9644
Marion Square
Wellington 6141

Fax: +64 (4) 499 5045

E-mail: info@midwiferycouncil.health.nz