



May 2016

Important dates

- 5 May – International midwives day
- 20 May – Council meeting
- 27 May- Council Recertification consultation closes
- 28 June – Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee Annual Report Day, Wellington
- 8 July – Council meeting
- 18 November – National Midwifery Forum, Brentwood Hotel, Wellington (will be live streamed)

Council location and contact details

The Council is now located on level 5, 22-28 Willeston St, Wellington. Phone and fax remain the same but the PO Box has changed to:

**Midwifery Council of New Zealand
PO Box 9644
Wellington 6141**

Be Safe.

The Midwifery Council is the guardian of professional standards in midwifery. It makes sure midwives meet and maintain professional standards of education, conduct and performance so that they deliver high quality healthcare throughout their careers. The safety of mothers and babies comes first.

Be Safe is a series of papers highlighting safety, best practice and professional standards in midwifery. As the Referral Guidelines have been highlighted in recent coronial inquests and Health and Disability Commissioner's reports, the Council decided that they would be the topic of the first [Be Safe](#). It is planned that the series will be published six weekly.

Consultation on the review of Recertification Programme

Since late 2015, a working party has been reviewing the Recertification Programme. The [background paper](#) and response form may be found on the [homepage](#) of the Council's website. Please take the opportunity to share your views. The consultation closes on 27 May.

Council meetings 18 February and 7/8 April

At the Council meeting on 18 February, items of interest include:

- Welcome to new members Chris Mallon and Kerry Adams
- Re-election of Judith McAra-Couper as chair; election of new Deputy Chair Debbie Fisher to replace outgoing member Andrea Vincent
- Discussion on midwifery workforce issues, both employed and community-based
- Website redesign and Be Safe Series

7/8 April meeting items of interest were:

- Report on successful re-location with 9 other Regulatory Authorities
- Recertification Programme review about to go out for wider consultation
- Ankyloglossia/Tongue tie statement approved
- Website and brand identity redevelopment reviewed
- Health and Safety matters, including the responsibilities of the Council as an employer and as a Regulatory Authority were discussed
- Review of progress made in the implementation of the October 2014 governance review

2016/17 Annual Practising Certificates

The annual round of issuing Annual Practising Certificates was completed in early April. For most midwives, the process went smoothly but it was challenging and frustrating for others. The following might help avoid most of those frustrations next APC application round.

1. Log on during the year, saving your username and password in one of the many password manager programmes now available
2. When you log on during the year, make sure all your Recertification Programme education is recorded. If you don't see it there, we do not have any record of your attendance
3. If you use Hotmail/msn/livemail, your email provider does not deliver the password recovery email generated by the system. The problem is at their end, not the Council's. Gmail delivers the emails to your Junk mail folder
4. Your APC application fee includes the cost of one plastic practising card. Any further plastic cards incur a \$25 replacement fee
5. If you have been issued with an IPC, it is **your** responsibility to provide the Council with evidence of completion of the overdue requirement/s before the expiry of your IPC. Please check carefully the expiry date of your IPC.

Council statement on the midwife's scope of practice with regard to assessment and diagnosis of tongue tie and the practice of frenotomy

The Council first put out a statement on tongue tie in 2005, reaffirming that statement in 2011. Since then, there has been increasing controversy about the diagnosis of tongue tie and the increased frequency of frenotomy. Following national consultation the Council has again reaffirmed its original position statement which is:

"The assessment of breastfeeding, the neonate's oral cavity including ankyloglossia and appropriate and timely referral and support is a competency for all midwives. Frenotomy sits within the scope of practice of midwives who have completed specific training and practical assessment in the diagnosis and treatment of ankyloglossia.

Please read the [full statement](#) for further details

Elective Education Course Approval Process

The Council reminds all midwives of the importance of checking with your course providers regarding course approval. We note that midwives are attending some courses under the assumption that they meet certain components of the Recertification Programme only to find they are not yet approved. You should not make an assumption that the course is approved without checking with the provider first. The Council does not approve courses in retrospect.

Privacy Education

Next week is Privacy Week and it is timely to remind ourselves of the importance of ensuring that we have good systems and processes for privacy and for managing health documentation. Go to free online [Council-approved](#)

[education](#) on privacy and the [Health Information Privacy Code](#).



Physical Address

Level 5 (reception)
22-28 Willeston Street
Wellington 6011



Postal Address

PO Box 9644
Wellington 6141



Telephone Numbers

Main line: +64 (4) 499 5040
Facsimile: +64 (4) 499 5045

website: www.midwiferycouncil.health.nz . If you are not a practising midwife and do not wish to receive this newsletter please contact info@midwiferycouncil.health.nz