

Midpoint

Midwifery Council New Zealand Newsletter

Guardians of Professional standards

► May 2017



Friday 5 May is International Day of the Midwife with its theme this year being “Midwives, mothers and families; partners for life”. It is a time when the invaluable care midwives around the world provide to women, babies and families is recognised and applauded. Thank you to every midwife practising in whatever capacity to make pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period a safe and fulfilling experience for women and their families.

Midwives have very much been in the news over the past month, particularly over the staffing shortages in the large secondary and tertiary hospitals. While workforce matters are not specified in the Council’s statutory jurisdiction, it knows that as the regulator of midwives with the purpose of keeping the public safe, a viable, well-resourced and supported midwifery workforce is key to safe, high quality maternity services, both in the community and hospital settings.

The Council acknowledges the work being done by the College of Midwives, the Ministry of Health and DHBs to move beyond identification of workforce issues to taking the action needed to resolve these. The Council has long supplied workforce data to Health Workforce NZ but this year has provided additional data to enable HWNZ to produce sophisticated midwifery workforce modelling. This is due to be completed in late May and is

eagerly anticipated by everyone with a stake in the state of the midwifery workforce.

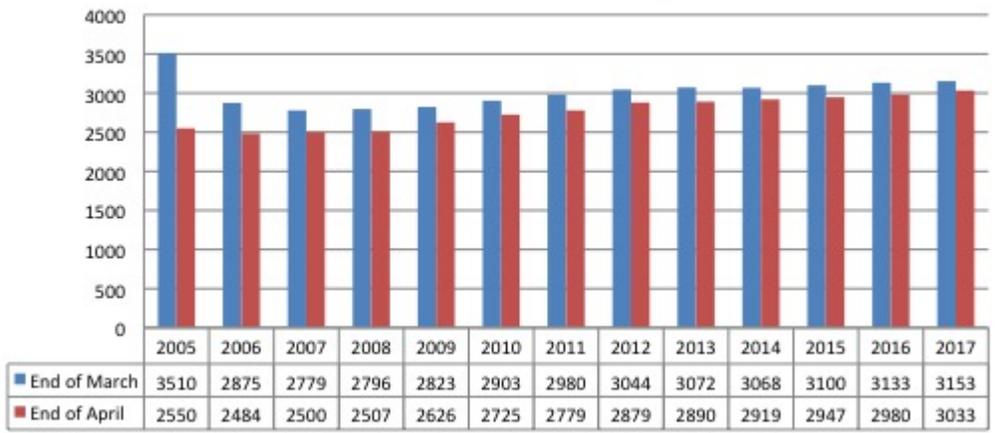
Sharron Cole, CEO/Registrar

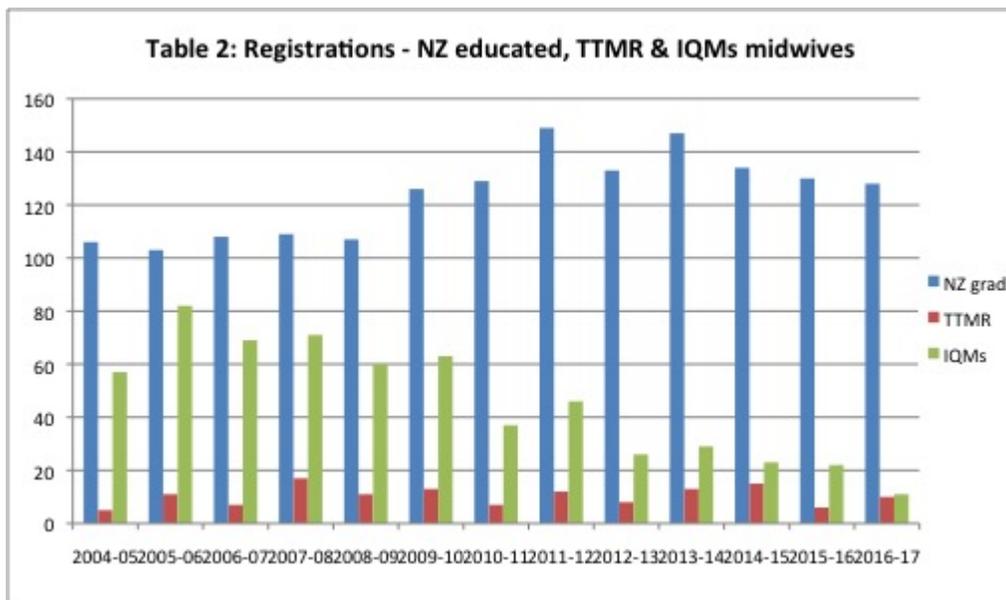


APC applications

All midwives should have received their 2017/2018 plastic cards, together with their receipt for tax purposes. If you received an IPC (because at the time your application was processed, the registration database indicated you had overdue Recertification Programme requirements) your IPC will be replaced with an APC when evidence of completion is received. There is no charge for this but if you want a new plastic card, there is a \$25 card replacement fee.

Table 1 APCs: End of March & April





What the figures tell us

Table 1 shows the number of Annual Practising Certificates (APC's) issued in the 2016/17 practising year, compared to previous years.

The table does not show whether the APC holder is working part or full time and there is evidence that midwives are increasingly preferring to work part time.

Table 2 shows the number of registrations of NZ-educated, Trans Tasman and Internationally Qualified midwives registered over the years. Interestingly, it does not show a dependence on IQMs although aggregated data shows 30% midwives completed their midwifery qualification overseas. This figure includes midwives who gained their nursing qualification in New Zealand but then went overseas, primarily the UK, to obtain their midwifery qualification.



Recertification Programme 2017 - 2020

Feedback from midwives about the changes to the Recertification Programme, giving midwives much greater choice around their post registration education, has been positive.

Realigning professional activities

Historically there has been some confusion regarding what constituted a professional activity. For simplicity, a decision was made to move some previous activities into the

The requirements of the programme are set out simply and clearly on our [webpage](#) where there are planners you can download to help you plan your programme and a list of professional activities. Remember if you did not undertake either the breastfeeding or Midwifery Practice Day requirements between April '14 and March '17, you are still required to complete this before your IPC expires.

What does the change from points to hours mean in a practical sense?

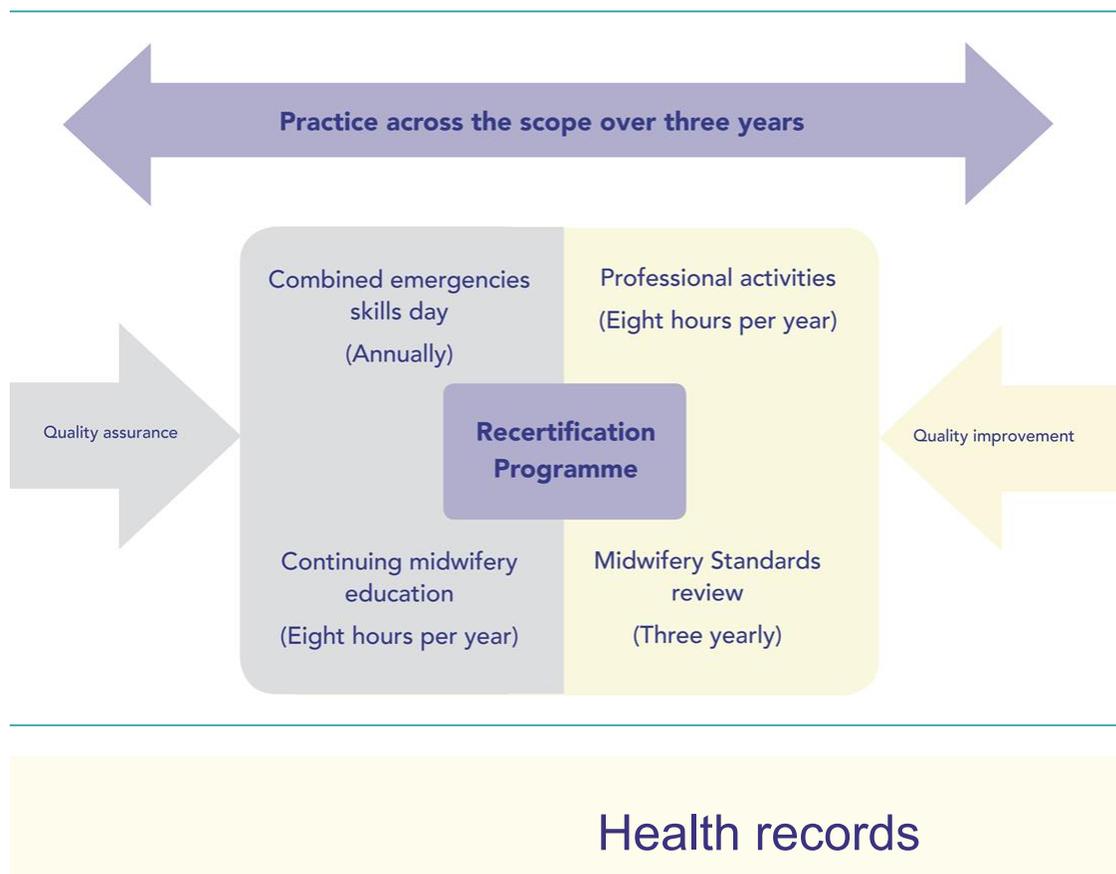
The Council will now record engagement in activities in terms of hours rather than points. Midwives should notice that certificates of attendance have changed and now include notation of the number of hours completed. Midwives should keep their certificates of attendance in their portfolio and ensure they have met the minimum requirements. This requirement is achieved through attendance at a one day seminar. However midwives can accumulate hours by completing online learning, participating in webinars and research reflections. Midwives completing formal postgraduate study should review the course outline so that they are aware of the course hour provision.

continuing midwifery education section of the Recertification Programme.

Those that have been changed include the PMMRC annual education day, in-service perinatal education meetings, CTG review meetings and conferences. Presenters at and volunteer organisers of such events will still be able to receive professional activity hours for their participation and guidance has been developed to ensure that hours are allocated when required.

Being a preceptor for midwifery students is one of the most common professional activities in which midwives engage. Schools of midwifery have been provided with guidance on the changed requirements. Many employers and individuals who may work with students on an ad hoc basis have developed systems which provide verification of hours that are used for the purposes of audit.

We will provide you with updates as we transition to the new framework but if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Council.





The Council endorses the reminder in the Midwifery News (March 2017) regarding the security and storage of health records and also the obligations on health professionals who access, use and store personal health information.

Accurate documentation in both electronic and paper-based systems is essential for seamless care for women and their babies. Ensuring safe and reliable systems which maintain record integrity, security and destruction is a professional obligation of all health professionals. Although the number of notifications regarding health records brought to the Council's attention is fortunately few, they can potentially have a big impact on the midwife and on the trust placed in her by women to keep their personal information safe. The Council recommends that midwives regularly take the time to review the systems they have in place for information security and if they have questions, they seek the advice from professional advisors.

DIARY



19 May

Council meeting

13 June

Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee Annual Conference, Te Papa, Wellington

18-22 June

31st ICM Congress, Toronto, Canada

19-20 October

Joan Donley Research Forum, Christchurch

Council offices

The Council is located on:

Level 5, 22-28 Willeston St, Wellington.



Phone and fax remain the same but the postal address has changed to:

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



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