



## **Whiringa-ā-rangi | November 2023**

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## **Chief Executive Report**

Kia ora koutou. Welcome to the penultimate issue of eMidpoint for 2023. This year is disappearing quickly and there is plenty to be done before we close the office for the festive break.

In October I was delighted to attend the National Scheme Combined Meeting in Melbourne. Over 400 health regulators from Aotearoa and Australia took part, including accreditation authorities, co-regulators, leaders from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group, as well as Responsible Authority representatives from Aotearoa New Zealand.

It was exciting to attend one of the first face-to-face regulators conference since the pandemic and share ideas and innovations, network with colleagues, and collectively consider ways we can respond to the evolving expectations and priorities of our regulatory environment.

The meeting provided us with the opportunity to examine ways we might learn from leading thinkers and innovators in designing our responses and strategies. Are we enabling a culturally and clinically safe, appropriate and responsive healthcare workforce to our communities through our regulation and accreditation approaches? What can we learn from those with lived experience?

### **Midwifery Scope of Practice**

Earlier this year, the Council received and considered feedback from the second round

of public consultation on the revised Scope of Practice for Midwives in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Council recently unanimously agreed to adopt that revised Scope of Practice, with the inclusion of an explanatory paragraph.

There are a few further steps to be taken before the revised Scope of Practice can be publicly released – these are currently being addressed and the Council anticipates being able to send the revised Scope of Practice to kahu pōkai | midwives before the end of the year. We expect the revised Scope of Practice to come into effect on 1 July, 2024. Until then, all kahu pōkai | midwives need to continue to practice within the current Scope of Practice.

It is exciting to welcome two new members to Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council - kahu pōkai | Midwife, Kiley Clark and lay person, Sue Kedgley were both appointed by the Minister of Health in August and attended their first Board meeting in September. I invite you to read more about Kiley and Sue on page 3.

As we fast approach the summer break, I would like to wish the midwifery students all the best as they prepare to take their end of year exams - and thank all the people who work in midwifery education for their mahi.

**Lesley Clarke**

Tumu Whakahaere | Chief Executive



**2023 Midwifery Workforce Survey is now available on [our website](#)**

### **Statement on Midwifery led Ultrasound Scans**

In September 2023, Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council decided that Registered kahu pōkai | midwives who hold a current practising certificate issued by the Council, can perform ultrasound specific to early pregnancy, provided they have completed an endorsed education course and remain engaged in an ongoing Council endorsed credentialling programme. This means that early pregnancy ultrasound is now recognised within the Midwifery Scope of Practice. This change is intended to:

- allow midwives to perform basic early pregnancy ultrasound after completing an endorsed course.
- improve access for whānau to early ultrasound; and
- reduce pressure on demand for formal ultrasound in early pregnancy

Nationally there are issues regarding access to ultrasound for whānau which coincides with the new abortion law reforms which enable midwives to provide midwifery-led abortion care. Some whānau wait up to four weeks to confirm the gestation of pregnancy when seeking a termination. This prolongs the pregnancy and further complicates the termination process, physically and emotionally. There are also large inequities accessing ultrasound, due to multiple barriers. Upskilling kahu pōkai | midwives to perform early ultrasound helps towards reducing these barriers and will help reduce pressure on community ultrasound services.

Te Tatau o Te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council has endorsed the education programme [CAHPU Basic Early Pregnancy Assessment](#) which is currently delivered by Australasian Society of Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) which is a multi-disciplinary organisation. They support ultrasound users both here and in Australia. [ASUM](#) also offer Ultrasound credentials for allied health professionals including obstetric units.

Read the full statement on our [website](#).

Ngā mihi maioha to all of you using your skills and expertise as kahu pōkai | midwives to work alongside whānau to guide and care for them during their pregnancy and birth journeys.

### **Mihi Whakatu**

The Council gathered in Te Whanaganui-a-Tara | Wellington to formally welcome two new Board members with a mihi whakatau in early September. Kiley Clark and Sue Kedgley were appointed by the Minister of Health and have been warmly welcomed onto the Board - we look forward to working with them over the coming years.



### **Return to Practice Information Zoom Monday 4 December 2023 1.00pm**

If you know kahu pōkai | midwives wanting to Return to Practice, please encourage them to contact [education@midwiferycouncil.health.nz](mailto:education@midwiferycouncil.health.nz) to register their interest in an informal information session with the Midwifery Advisor and Programmes Officer about Return to Practice.

## Meet the two new Board Members

### Kiley Clark

Kiley has been a midwife for 11 years. She lived and worked in South Auckland for 20 years before moving home to Central Hawkes Bay where she was the Māori Midwifery Consultant to Maternity in Hawkes Bay DHB.

Kiley has worked in DHB Midwifery at Middlemore and Hawkes Bay Hospitals. She is currently an LMC Employed Midwife and a member of Tāpuhi Midwives – an LMC Group Practice in Hawkes Bay.

As tāpuhi Māori, Kiley believes that Māori leadership and expertise is crucial to enable true equity and partnership for whānau Māori. There is a lot of mahi to be done to meet the needs of whānau Māori and Kiley has a special interest in breastfeeding services, support, and education. Kiley is passionate about raising the profile and increasing understanding for te ao Māori services to improve culturally responsive breastfeeding services in Aotearoa.

Kiley has built on her governance and strategic work within the health service and in the community.



### Susan Kedgley

Sue is a writer, independent director, media trainer and consumer advocate. She has written eight books including 'Fifty Years of Feminism' - a personal memoir which recounts the history of feminism. She is also on the Board of Consumer NZ, the Consumer Foundation and the Capital and Coast District Health Board.

Sue helped set up Auckland University Women's Liberation in 1971; the National Organisation for Women (NOW) in 1972; and co-authored 'Sexist Society', the first book about women's liberation in New Zealand. She then worked at the United Nations on women's issues for 8 years. Back in New Zealand, she worked for TVNZ and made documentaries about women's issues.

Sue was President of the National Committee of UN Women Aotearoa New Zealand from 2014 to 2016; Chair of the National Committee of the Women's Empowerment Principles from 2016-18 and a member of the UN Women Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Advisory Group. She is an issues Convenor for the National Council of Women.

Sue was a Green MP from 1999-2011 and was Chair of Parliament's Health Select Committee for three years - she initiated select committee inquiries into ambulance services, obesity and type 2 diabetes, and the regulation of natural health products. She also campaigned for safe, healthy food, animal welfare, public service broadcasting, public transport, aged care and many other issues.

Sue was a Wellington City Councillor for 8 years in the 1980s and a Wellington Regional Councillor from 2013-2019.

*Photos: Kiley Clark (L), Susan Kedgley (R)*

## Your Rights! - Ōu Mōtika

In Aotearoa New Zealand, it's important that everyone knows their rights when it comes to health and disability care. This knowledge empowers individuals to speak up if they have any concerns. The office of the Health and Disability Commissioner launched the Your Rights animated video in September 2023 to coincide with World Patient Safety Day – [Elevate the voice of patients](#). The video encourages everyone to be aware of their rights so they can ask questions, seek support, and ensure their voices are heard.

The video is available in both Te Reo Māori and English, and we encourage you to share them with whanau to help ensure everyone is informed about their rights.

## Shared maternity records for maternity care goes live

The first phase of a shared clinical record for maternity care, called the [BadgerNet](#) Perinatal Spine (the Spine) went live in August.

The Spine is a secure information-sharing system that allows participating health professionals who provide pregnancy care across the motu to share and access up-to-date information on their pregnant person, in a single pregnancy record, no matter what IT system they use.

The initiative is being delivered in four phases and phase one went live with two adopters sharing a dataset related to bookings between community midwives and birth facilities. Te Whatu Ora says all maternity providers should be able to connect to the Spine by mid-2025.

Most antenatal maternity care is delivered in the community and Te Whatu Ora believes it is essential to share this clinical information between community, hospital, and other providers. If a woman moves around the country or changes midwife, their information does not necessarily currently follow them. Most of a birthing person's journey during pregnancy is out in the community, but the current national maternity IT solution is mainly designed for hospitals.

The Spine will feed the information through into other systems, and also retrieve information updated by others, so any participating health professional involved in the birthing person's care can access up-to-date information to make accurate clinical decisions.

Find out more from the [Te Whatu Ora](#) website.

## National examination changes

A new structure to the national examination is now in place, with only one section. This means all candidates will receive their grade shortly after sitting the examination. The number of questions has been reduced to 170 with the time remaining at 3 hours.

## Funding available for RTP programmes

Currently, there is \$1600 per midwife available to assist kahu pōkai | midwives who wish to Return to Practice (RTP).

The funding is held nationally by Te Whatu Ora and anyone who wishes to access the RTP funding should contact Te Whatu Ora midwifery leaders. Local managers need to apply to access the funds on behalf of the RTP midwife.

To access this funding please send an invoice of \$1600 per midwife to [maternity@health.govt.nz](mailto:maternity@health.govt.nz) with your DHB details and the name and registration number of the midwife undertaking the RTP programme. The Ministry will accept invoices for midwives who have been engaged with programme since 1 July 2021.

There is also relocation funding available for overseas Midwives who wish to move to Aotearoa New Zealand from Te Whatu Ora.

## Partial Internationally Qualified Midwife registration fee

We are working on a solution to offer a partial registration fee to enable Internationally Qualified Midwives (IQMs) to have their qualifications, experience, and English language proficiency (where needed) to be assessed. This is to encourage more applicants to complete their registration application as we have many kahu pōkai | midwives commencing this process but not progressing. The Council can then guide the applicants to proceed with the other documentation (medical certificates, character references for example) or alternative pathways such as sitting the international exam (appropriate questions drawn from the National Midwifery Exam for New Zealand Graduates) and Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) or other clinical assessment. If NZ Registered Midwives know of internationally qualified kahu pōkai | midwives wishing to come to Aotearoa, they can be directed [HERE](#) for our guidelines.

## GROW 2.0 goes live this month

Te Whatu Ora will take over the Growth Assessment Protocol (GAP) licence contract with Perinatal Institute from ACC. This coincides with the launch of the new application GROW 2.0 which will be live across Aotearoa on 29th November.

The new application will be integrated into [BadgerNet](#) and Expect Maternity and will also be available via GROW 2.0 App to districts that currently use paper charts. Maternity Plus users will have GROW 2.0 available to them from 1 February 2024 and can continue using GROW 1.5 until this time. From 29 November 2023, all bookings for maternity care should have their chart created using GROW 2.0. The current system (GROW 1.5) should not be used for chart creation after this date, apart from Maternity Plus users.

Specific training for integrated and standalone users will be hosted by the [Perinatal Institute](#) and dates will be announced shortly.

## Annual Practising Certificate payment options

The Council has been working with Midwifery Leaders to come up with a solution for employed midwives who find it difficult to pay for their annual practising certificate (APC) during the February/March period. Nationally, Te Whatu Ora (TWO) are not yet able to pay in bulk for all employed midwives. Any changes to this or actions from TWO regionally will be communicated to you by your Midwifery Leaders. In the meantime, we are pursuing the ability to accept bank transfers (direct credits), as some people do not have a credit card and there were issues with Prezzy Card providers at the last round.

To ensure the APC round goes smoothly for you, please make sure you are updating the CPD tab in your MyMCANZ portal. Kahu pōkai | midwives with overdue components of the current Recertification Programme may not be able to apply online and may be required to contact the secretariat to have that enabled. Please see the current planner on our [website](#).

## Children's Worker Safety Checks

A Children's Worker Safety Check is a legislative requirement under the Children's Act 2014.

A safety check may be required for people who:

- currently work with children under the age of 18, without a parent or guardian present
- may work with children in the future.

The purpose of this check is to reduce the risk of harm to young people. The check requires people employed or engaged in work that involves contact with children to be safety checked. This includes face-to-face, over the phone, or email contact. There are two groups who need to be safety checked:

- Accredited workers – the child worker's job requires them to hold a registration with a regulatory authority (e.g., Midwifery Council) and hold an annual practising certificate.
- Non-accredited workers – the child worker's job does not require them to hold a registration with a regulatory authority.

A Safety Check is due every three years. Once you have a safety check you will receive a reminder email after 2 year and 9 months to remind you that your check is due for renewal. You can find out more about [Children's Worker Safety Checks](#) from the Te Whatu Ora website.

## Diary Notes:

Next Council Meeting: 1st December 2023

*The Secretariat will be closed for the festive break from 12pm Friday 22 December 2023 and will reopen 8am Monday 08 January 2024*