Media Statement released by the Midwifery Council of New Zealand regarding research report entitled: ‘A Comparison of Midwife-Led and Medical-Led Models of Care and Their Relationship to Adverse Fetal and Neonatal Outcomes: A Retrospective Cohort Study in New Zealand’

September 28, 2016

The Midwifery Council, the regulatory body set up to protect the public by making sure midwives are competent and fit to practise, welcomes research into public safety. The Council considers carefully all research and information about midwives in New Zealand especially in relation to safety of women and babies. “The Council is always pleased to receive credible research into matters that affect the profession,” says Chief Executive Sharron Cole.

“Because the Council did not receive this research paper prior to its general release we are unable to comment in detail on the findings at this stage, but we note that it has been referred to the National Maternity Monitoring Group for further study. The Chair of the Midwifery Council, Associate Professor Dr McAra-Couper, is a member of this group which will carefully consider all aspects of the report and will feed the findings back to Council.

The Council notes that Co-author former midwife Ellie Wernham acknowledged the benefits of a midwife-led model but her research showed aspects of the maternity system which could be improved. We are aware of pressures on the midwifery workforce both in the community and in maternity facilities and welcome initiatives to understand and address these.

“The Council’s first priority is always the safety of mothers and babies and it has a consistent track record of responding effectively and efficiently when concerns are raised. We will consider this research and its implications.”

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