

In this issue

Campaign to lift vaccination rates for tamariki | Meet the team | Increase in complaints from members of the public | Midwifery Assessment Komiti vacancy | Mary Dobbie - pioneer for women | The three options for Practising Status



Kia ora koutou,

There was plenty going on during May - International Day of the Midwife, Mothers Day, and Perinatal Maternal Mental Health Week all in the one month.

Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council was honoured to host members of Ngā Maia Trust who travelled to Pōneke | Wellington in May as part of our annual planning day. It was extremely valuable to meet with the Trustees and learn more about our common objectives and aspirations. I hope this will

be the first of many other hui as we work together to support a culturally safe midwifery workforce in Aotearoa.

The Council has noticed an increase in the number of

complaints from the public concerning midwifery care, particularly in early pregnancy and when trying to engage with a lead maternity carer. We acknowledge workforce shortages may contribute to the frustration people have when they are trying to find a midwife, but the [Code of Midwifery Professional Conduct](#) requires midwives' communication with whānau to be appropriate and respectful.

If you are interested in health regulation, there is a unique opportunity to have a key role in improving assessment processes for graduating midwives - find out more on page three of this issue of Midpoint.

As we head into the cooler winter months, we know that there is likely to be increased pressure on midwives as colds, flu and (still) COVID take their toll on communities. I urge you to take care of yourselves even as you care for whānau during their pregnancy and health journeys. Ngā manaakitanga,

Lesley Clarke

Tumu Whakahaere me te Pouroki | Chief Executive and Registrar

Abortion Law Reform Education update

Thank you to all midwives who have updated their education by completing the Introduction to the Abortion Legislation and Midwifery Roles and Responsibilities course. Please be aware that in the coming weeks, those who have not completed the Abortion legislation education will be contacted by the Council.

Please click [here](#) to complete the education.

If you have any questions please contact:

education@midwiferycouncil.health.nz

Ngā Maia Trustees with members of Te Tahu o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council



From Left: Front row: Te Rina Joseph (Ngā Maia), Ngarangi Pritchard (Tangata Whenua Co-Chair, Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu), Crete Cherrington (Ngā Maia), Jessica Schreiber. (Deputy Registrar, Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu)

Back row: Chris Mallon (Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu), Kerry Adams (Tangata Tiriti Co-Chair, Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu), Mahia Winder (Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu), Lisa Kelly (Chairperson, Ngā Maia Trust), Beatrice Latham (Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu), Diana Austin (Senior Advisor Midwifery Education, Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu), Jude Cottrell (Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu), Nicky Jackson (Senior Advisor: Midwifery Regulation, Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu), Melanie Tarrant (Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu), Henare Kani (Ngā Maia Kaumatua), Lesley Clarke (CE and Registrar, Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu)

Meet the team - Shannon Bayliss

Kaiwhakahaere Mahi | Operations Manager

Kia ora koutou,

I recently joined Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council as the Kaiwhakahaere Mahi | Operations Manager. My role largely entails supporting the Council to ensure our systems and processes are effective, streamlined and thorough, our database and website is accurate and up to date, and supporting our operational team with day to day tasks.

My previous work experience has mostly been in Operations for Insurance Assessors, having been involved in the administration, logistics and operational facets of the businesses.

While pregnant with my two daughters, my midwives, together with the team of midwives at our local hospital, provided myself and my whānau with such profound support to ensure the safety and health of myself and my babies. I am excited to now be able to learn more about the health sector, what this means for midwives - and to contribute, in a small way, to helping midwives through my work at the Council.



I live with my husband, two daughters (10 and 4) and three fur-babies in the beautiful Wairarapa. My down time is mainly spent pottering around home, spending time with family and friends, baking, cooking and reading murder mysteries! I am also studying part-time so can often be found finishing off readings or assignments on the train to and from work.

Have you heard of Mary Dobbie?

Mary Dobbie was born in 1913 in England and emigrated to New Zealand with her family when she was six years old.

A staunch believer in rights for women, Mary played an important part in establishing the Family Planning organisation in a bid to help provide better contraception and advice for women.

She also helped form Parents Centre NZ in 1952 to satisfy a demand for improved birthing practices for women and antenatal and postnatal care for parents - she was a keen advocate for natural birthing practices.

Mary wrote a book, *The Trouble With Women*, which was published in 1990, about the fight for parents rights - including for New Zealand men to attend the births of their children in the 1960s and for parents to be able to stay with their children

when they were in hospital. She was awarded a Queen's Service Medal for her voluntary service to the community in 1997. Mary passed away in 2009 and is survived by her five daughters, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Increase in complaints from the public

The Code of Midwifery Professional Conduct requires midwives' communication with whānau to be appropriate and respectful. Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council has noticed an increase in the number of complaints from the public concerning midwifery care in early pregnancy and when trying to engage with a lead maternity carer.

We would like to remind you all that, when it receives a complaint alleging a consumer has been affected, the Council is required to refer the complaint to the Health and Disability Commissioner. There are a range of other avenues available to raise concerns about a midwife, and those are outlined on the Council's [website](#).

We acknowledge workforce shortages may contribute to the frustration people have when they are trying to find a midwife. The Council is involved in the Te Whatu Ora workforce taskforce with its public safety lens. That taskforce will agree the key priority interventions for immediate workforce expansion where services are at risk of failing if the workforce is not supported in the short term. The Council would like to remind midwives about:

- Professional communication [Code of Conduct](#)
- The potential for miscommunication using text [Be Safe Paper 02 Text Messaging](#)
- Your obligation to uphold the Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights, specifically Right five: the right to effective communication; and Right ten: The right to complain. Find out more at [HDC Your Rights](#).

Some complaints coming to the Midwifery Council could be resolved at a lower level. Please review any complaints management policies you may have, where appropriate. There is more information on our webpage under [Concerns about a midwife](#).

Aotearoa Immunisation Week

Te Aka Whai Ora and Te Whatu Ora stress that being immunised is one of the best ways to protect ourselves, our whānau and our communities from preventable diseases.

The risk of severe illness this winter is high, so everyone across the motu is encouraging to be protected.

While there is focus on flu and COVID-19 vaccines at the moment, health officials ask that vaccinating teams consider a wider approach to consumers when they offer vaccines. They particularly encourage hapū māmā to receive information on all vaccines they are eligible for and when the best time to receive these will be.

Aotearoa Immunisation Week (29 May to 4 June 2023) is a series of locally-led events that underlines the importance of immunisations and provides a variety of vaccinations to protect whānau as they prepare for winter. Find out more at this [website](#).



The three options for Practising Status

There are three options for your practicing status:

Practising

You will need to hold a current APC to hold the status of practicing. Practice is not limited to clinical practice but extends to any education, quality improvement, policy advice, antenatal education, lactation services etc.

Non-Practising

There are many reasons someone may wish to go non-practising – a sabbatical, overseas travel, extended illness, parental leave etc. A ‘non-practising’ status signals to wahine and their whanau, and the public that you are a registered midwife but are not practising. As a non-practising midwife, you will receive communication from the council and will be entitled to participate in consultations. You will also be exempt from education requirements when you are non-practising. The annual cost is \$50.00.

Removal from Register

If you have no intention of practising midwifery in the future you can apply to be removed from the register. This will remove your name from the public register, and you will no longer receive communication from the Council. Any records held by Council about you will be either archived or destroyed. If you are removed from the register there will be a fee to be reinstated.

Unique opportunity

Have a key role in improving assessment processes for graduating midwives Whakamātautau Komiti members

We are calling for expressions of interest from midwives, with experience in education, to be members of the Aotearoa New Zealand Midwifery Assessment Committee | Midwifery Whakamātautau Komiti.

The Midwifery Whakamātautau Komiti is established to provide expertise and oversight on the function, appropriateness and sustainability of the assessment of midwives applying to register with the Midwifery Council.

Underpinning the purpose and function of the Komiti is its adoption of Te Tiriti o Waitangi Governance Relationship Framework policy. The Komiti will ensure all systems and processes honour Tiriti o Waitangi.

There is currently a position available on the Komiti for an experienced midwifery educator with current practising certificate and/or educationalist for academic assessment.

If this role sounds interesting to you and you have the following please contact us:

- Registration with the Midwifery Council
- A current practising certificate with no special conditions or requirements
- Experience in midwifery education or other education experience.
- Are available to attend online meetings once a month, with some work in between.

This is a key, paid, position that supports Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council in its work in protecting the health and safety of whānau.

Please email your expressions of interest and CV to [Diana Austin](#) (Senior Advisor Midwifery Education) or call 04 498 8995 x 864 if you have any questions or want to discuss these roles.

Expressions close 19 June 2023.

Subject Matter Expert

Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu |Midwifery Council is seeking expressions of interest from midwives (with a current practising certificate) to join a team of subject matter experts, whose role will be to review and develop questions for the national exam.

If have current experience in midwifery practice and education, and a strong ability to write we would love to hear from you. Training is provided in writing multi-choice questions.

If you are interested, please [email us](#) for further information.



- 11-14 June, 33rd ICM Triennial Congress