

# Midpoint

## Midwifery Council New Zealand Newsletter

Guardians of Professional standards

► April 2019



It was during the March Council meeting that we heard the news about the shootings in the Masjid Al Noor and Linwood Masjid mosques and the loss of so many lives and the wounding of many others. The scale of the tragedy shocked us all and resulted in a nation again in mourning alongside the people of Christchurch.

That the lives of the families of those who were killed and wounded have been torn apart has been painfully clear. It has been heartening to see so many people in New Zealand stand with the Muslim community to show their rejection of the hatred that precipitated this act of terrorism and as importantly, to offer their love and support for the Muslim community.

Possibly not so evident is that many Christchurch midwives have cared for the women, babies within their families so many who worship at the mosques are personally known to them and they grieve with them. There are other consequences such as the severe pressure on hospital services which has impacted on the planned care for pregnant and birthing women. Added security measures, while understandable and reassuring, also are a constant reminder of a new reality, post 15 March.

The Council sends its heartfelt sympathy and respect to the Muslim community. To all midwives, student midwives, educators, the National Office team and those in any way connected with the profession, kia kaha, kia manawanui.

*Sharron Cole, CEO/Registrar,*

*Midwifery Council of New Zealand*



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## Revised strategic plan 2018-21

At its February meeting, the Council held a planning day which included the annual review of its current strategic plan. Given the significant events around the midwifery workforce in 2018 and the Council's statutory responsibility to set the midwifery scope of practice, it made the decision to broaden strategic objective one from beyond a review of competencies for entry to the register to looking at the potential role of midwives through the 2020s. It will also involve a review of the pre-registration education standards to ensure they too are fit for purpose.

In addition, in view of the greater emphasis on transparency in the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Amendment Bill, strategic objective two now focuses more strongly on the Council's responsibility to place easily accessible and understandable evidence on the midwifery profession's trustworthiness before the public.

The Council approved the [revised plan](#) at its 15 March meeting.

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## APCs issued for 2019/20 practising year

The annual round of applications for new practising certificates has come and gone. For most midwives, the process went smoothly. There has however been a problem arise with the plastic APC cards in that the card company had not replenished its base stock. It has placed an expedited order but there will be a delay in the midwives who applied for their APCs in the last few days of March receiving their cards and tax receipts.

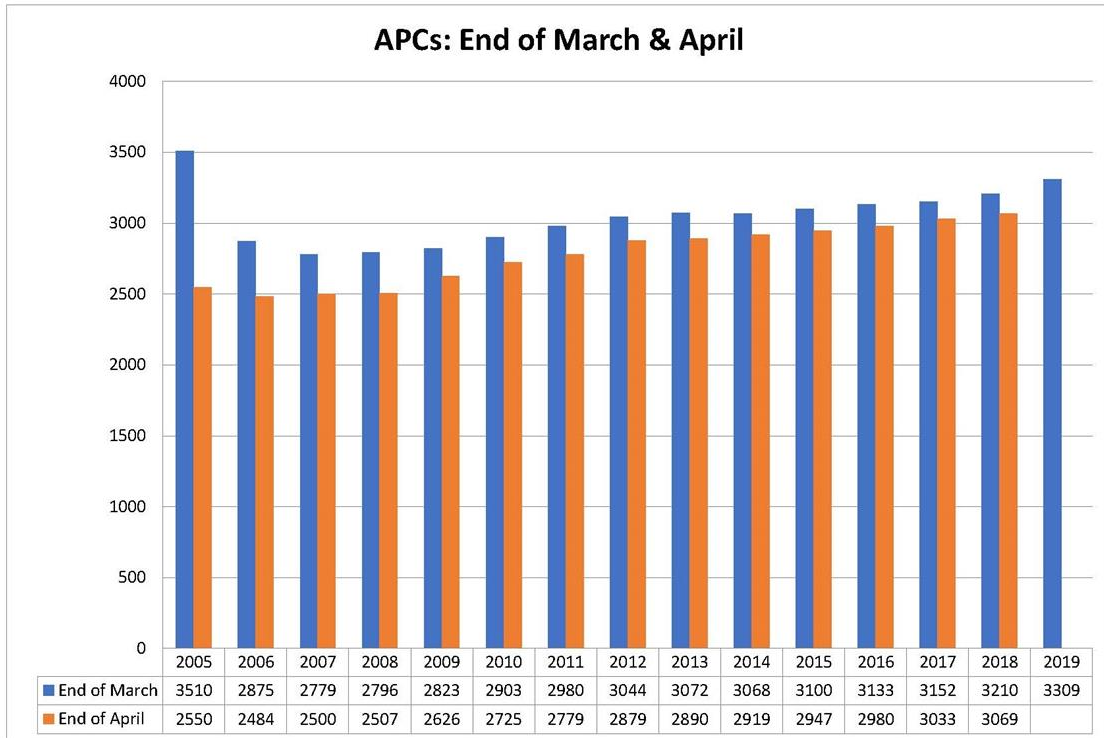
The year ended on 31 March with 3,309 midwives holding practising certificates, compared to 3,210 last year. By Wednesday 3 April in the new 2019/20 practising year, 3,062 midwives had applied for and been issued with their practising certificates. Inevitably, some will apply over April so the figure holding APCs as at 30 April will give us a better comparative picture of the state of the midwifery workforce.

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APC deadline past



The MOH maternity contracts team reminds you that you are required to have a current APC to provide and claim for maternity services under the Primary Maternity Services Notice 2007 (the Notice). If your APC expired on 31 March 2019 and was not renewed from 1 April 2019, your authorisation to provide and claim for maternity services under the Notice is suspended until a current APC is in place.



## Change of name under which a midwife practises

**We are often contacted by midwives using different names to that under which they appear on the Register of Midwives.**

Without their Registration number, we usually have no idea who they are.

**Importantly, members of the public would not be able to find the midwife's name in the online register.**

When a midwife changes the name under which she practises, under section 141 of the HPCAA, she must notify the Council within one month of her new name. This must be by written notice and as it is a primary identity document, it must be certified by a lawyer or a justice of the peace. If midwives continue to practise under their registration name but use their married or family name for non-practice purposes, they do not need to notify us.

## Safety checks

Vulnerable Children Act safety checks have to be renewed every three years. This means that midwives who had safety checks in 2016 are due for renewal this year. The renewal



date will be different for each midwife depending on the date of issue of the safety check. If you are claiming under the primary maternity notice, it is important to submit evidence of a new safety check before your current one expires. You will not be able to claim for services without evidence that you held a valid safety check at the time the services were delivered. Information on how to obtain a safety check is available on the Ministry [website](#). The requirement for repeat checks for employment is the responsibility of the employer.

If you have not renewed your APC from 1 April 2019 or need to provide evidence of your updated safety check, please contact the Ministry of Health by emailing:

DunedinAASupport@moh.govt.nz or phoning 0800 855 066.



## Roll out of MEWS

The Health Quality and Safety Commission has announced the national rollout of MEWS during 2019-20. MEWS has been developed to help clinicians identify when a pregnant woman's condition starts to deteriorate, so they can respond quickly. For more information about MEWS, check out this [Q&A sheet](#). Associated resources can be found on the [HSQC website](#).

## Perinatal & Maternal Mortality Review Committee

The Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee has advised that it will not be holding its annual conference in June where it usually releases its annual report.

The PMMRC advises of the reasons for this and several other changes on its [website](#). It will release a data report later in the year and plans to return to its usual practice of a report and a national conference in 2020.

## Digital signatures on prescriptions

The Council continues to receive phone calls from pharmacists regarding the use of digital signatures on prescriptions.



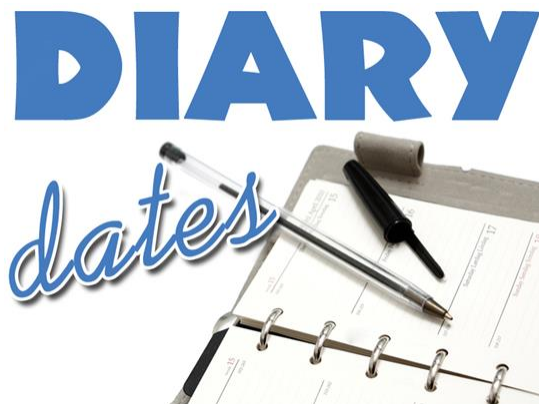
The Council refers all midwives to the [previous statement](#) on this matter.

## Guardians of professional standards

### HPDT decision re Danielle Hart-Murray

The [HPDT in August 2018](#) found proven three charges involving fraudulent prescribing, inappropriate and or/manifestly excessive prescribing of Tramadol, and unlawful prescribing of the controlled medicine codeine against midwife Danielle Hart-Murray.

Cumulatively, this conduct brought discredit to the midwifery profession and amounted to professional misconduct on Ms Hart-Murray's part. The Tribunal ordered: the cancellation of Ms Hart-Murray's registration; censure; costs of \$6000; and that its decision be placed in the Council's publication to its members.



#### 3 May

Council meeting

#### 21 June

Council meeting

#### 12-13 September 2019

Joan Donley Midwifery Research Forum,  
Palmerston North

### Council offices

The Council is located on:



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If you are not a practising midwife and do not wish to receive this newsletter please contact [info@midwiferycouncil.health.nz](mailto:info@midwiferycouncil.health.nz)



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