



August 2015

Important dates

- 20/21 August – Council meeting
- 1 October – Council meeting
- 6 November – National Midwifery Forum, Hamilton
- 27 November – Council meeting
- 7 December – National Midwifery Exam

Council members reappointed

The Council is delighted that the Minister of Health has reappointed Chair Associate Professor Judith McAra-Couper and lay member Bronwen Golder for further three year terms. The Council is continuing its governance and organisational review implementation so the continuity of knowledge and experience that their reappointments bring to the process is especially welcome.

July Council meeting

At the Council meeting on 2 July, items of interest include:

- Report on the signing of the Service Level Agreement with the Nursing Council to provide financial services, governance support and facilities management. The agreement does **not** include the provision of any regulatory services which remain with the Midwifery Council secretariat
- Approval of the revised Standards for Approval of Midwifery Pre-Registration Education Programmes
- NZCOM's report at three months of the February cohort of the Midwifery First Year of Practice Programme
- Approval of the revised Return to Practice Policy

Return to Practice policy

The Council has simplified the Return to Practice policy and added a checklist which clearly defines the requirements of each return to practice category. An additional policy for midwives who have practised overseas and who intend to re-enter practice in New Zealand is included as there is a need for additional safety checks as a consequence of the Vulnerable Children's Act. All policies are published on the [Council website](#).

Vulnerable Children's Act: Children's worker safety checks

Under the Vulnerable Children's Act, midwives are classified as core workers. Student midwives are also included in this classification and additional safety check requirements will be required to be undertaken by prospective employers as a result of this legislation.

The Ministry of Health, which contracts the services of LMC midwives under the s88 Maternity Notice, is developing an independent screening service to undertake all aspects of the safety check.

The Council's role is primarily at the time of registration, focusing on the confirmation of the identity of the midwife, Certificates of Good Standing from the relevant Regulatory Authority, referees' and work history checks, and police vetting. The Council's policy on Re-entry to NZ Practice outlines how it will meet its obligations for those midwives who have been practising overseas. The new policy formalises what had become standard practice for such midwives.

For further information about safety checks, go to the [Ministry of Health](#) and [NZ College of Midwives'](#) websites.

Revised Standards for Approval of Pre-registration Programmes of Education

The revised Standards for Approval of Pre-registration Programmes of Education were approved by the Council at its July meeting. This follows a more than year long process of review, revision, consultation and incorporation of feedback into the revised standards. The revised standards are currently being converted into a publishable PDF and will shortly be available on the website.

National Midwifery Examination

All candidates who sat the National Midwifery Examination on 6 July were successful. The Council congratulates them and welcomes them to their new profession.

Applications will soon open for those candidates who wish to sit the examination in December. Candidates sitting this examination are urged to ensure they complete this process with urgency to ensure all documentation is received and processed as soon as possible. This need to have all necessary documentation to the Council in a timely manner has become even more important because the hugely increased demand on the Police Vetting Service owing to the Vulnerable Children's Act has led to significantly increased delays in the return of the Police Checks.

Payment to accompany any application

There are a number of matters for which the Council has prescribed fees. The [schedule of fees](#) is published in the NZ Gazette. Any application to the Council where a gazetted fee is payable must be accompanied by the specified fee. When the prescribed fee is not paid, the Council will either decline (where the application is for an Annual Practising Certificate) or take no action on the matter until payment has been received.



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