

Midpoint

Midwifery Council New Zealand Newsletter

Guardians of Professional standards

► May 2018



The annual round of applications for new practising certificates has come and gone. For most midwives, the process went smoothly but there were inevitable glitches. These were usually sorted with good two-way communication and I am grateful to midwives for their patience and good humour.

In conjunction with its strategic planning for 2018 - 21, the Council has also recently completed an organisational review. The Council wants to be sure that the organisation's structure is fit for purpose as it seeks to embed customer-focused, effective, right touch regulation. We are now moving to the implementation phase over the next three months of both the strategic plan and the organisational review with the recruitment of a Policy and Risk Advisor and an analysis of all our business processes.

Sharron Cole, CEO/Registrar,

Midwifery Council of New Zealand

One of the most positive aspects of the APC application round was the opportunity to speak with many midwives. Issues that can appear troubling or daunting often turn out not to be.

But whether big or small, invariably we find that we can get resolution that satisfies both us as regulator and midwives as practitioners. If you have an issue or need clarification on a matter, please contact us so that we can work together to resolve them.

New Be Safe paper

The fourth [Be safe](#) paper on documentation has been released and is available as a downloadable PDF on the website. The



document is high level and principled in its approach, and gives helpful information and guidance on what the Council expects in midwives' documentation and record keeping.

New research on graduate midwives

A new study "Risk of perinatal mortality in the first year of midwifery practice in New Zealand: analysis of a retrospective national cohort" (Sadler, L. et al (2018)) was published in March in the [British Medical Journal \(Open\)](#). The findings of the study show:

1. There is no increased risk of baby death attributable to midwives in their first year of practice when compared with midwives beyond their first year of practice.

2. First year midwives care for women with higher risk. The women they care for on average are younger, more often from higher risk ethnic groups, having their first baby, smokers, overweight, and from areas with higher socioeconomic deprivation.

3. There is no increased risk of baby death attributable to midwives' education.

Perinatal mortality was not associated with overseas education compared to New Zealand education. It was also not different if a midwife was first educated as a nurse compared to a midwife without nursing education (direct entry midwifery).

The findings reinforce the Council's analysis of our data and trends that new graduate midwives are not at increased risk. It is also consistent with the notifications received by the Council with around 40 notifications a year for the more than 60,000 births.

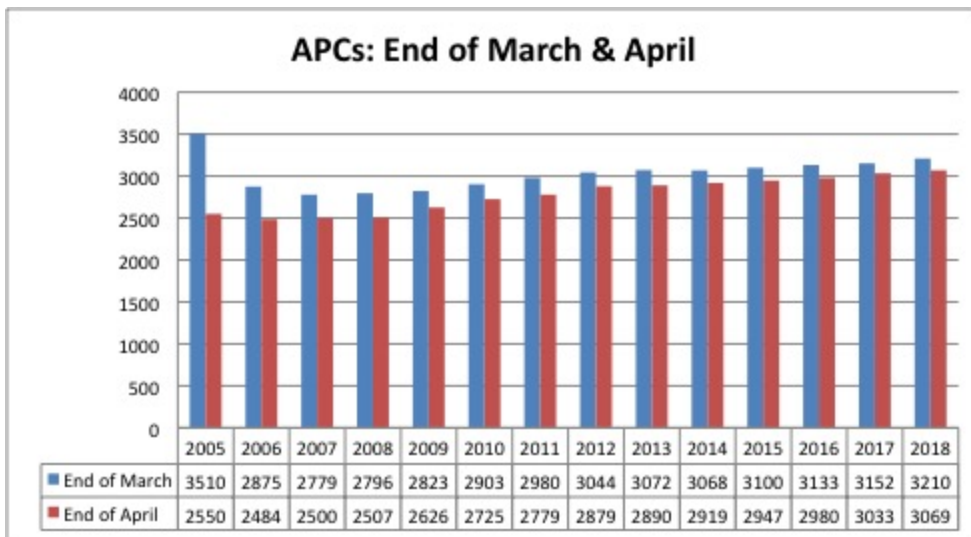
The Council has published a [media statement](#) on the findings of the study.



APC update

Our records show that at the end of the practising year (31/3/2018) there is no decrease from previous years in the number of midwives applying for practising certificates.

However, as yet, the Council in conjunction with Health Workforce NZ has not had the opportunity to analyse the workforce data which gives a much more detailed picture of the state of the workforce and if there are adequate numbers to meet the needs of the birthing population. Conversations with midwives indicate the number of full time equivalent midwives is substantially below 3069. It also seems as if a significant number of LMC midwives are now working as employed midwives.



Non- renewals of APCs

Important message about APCs from the Ministry of Health Maternity Agreements Team.

You are required to have a current Annual Practising Certificate (APC) to provide and claim for maternity services under the Primary Maternity Services Notice 2007 (the Notice). If you did not renew your practising certificate from 1 April 2018, your authorisation to provide and claim for maternity services under the Notice has been suspended until a current APC is in place.

If you did not renew your APC from 1 April 2018 but intend to practise later in the year and do not want your contract to be terminated, please contact the Ministry of Health by emailing DunedinAASupport@moh.govt.nz with your name, postal address and Midwifery Council registration number.



Safety checks - message from the MOH

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) reminds Lead Maternity Carers that evidence of a safety check that meets the requirements of the Vulnerable Children Act 2014 is required by 1 July 2018.

If you are using CV Check Limited, you need to either send a copy of the final assessment to the Ministry or choose to give the Ministry direct access to your result.

Information about safety checks, including information about CV Check Limited,

It is important that the Ministry receives this evidence to ensure continuity of authorisation to claim.

Evidence of a safety check will either be a final assessment from [CV Check Limited](#) or, if you have been safety checked by an employer, an Employer Verification Form completed by the employer who conducted the check.

Employer Verification Forms and where you can send evidence can be found on the [Ministry's website](#) or you can ring our contact centre on **0800 281 222**.

DIARY



11 May 2018

Council meeting

26 June 2018

Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee Conference

29 June 2018

Council meeting



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



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