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I welcome you to this Spring time issue of Midpoint. After a challenging winter, we are all ready for some warmer weather and fresh energy to take us through to 2023.

I stepped into the role of Acting Chief Executive and Registrar when Dr Sue Calvert resigned earlier this month. Sue set up a supportive and highly capable team in the Secretariat and we will continue the

work necessary to meet our statutory obligations and to keep mothers and babies safe by ensuring all midwives are competent and fit to practice. The office team will miss Sue as a friend and colleague and we wish her all the best as she takes up new challenges.

The COVID-19 vaccination mandate for remaining workers will be lifted at 11:59pm on Monday 26 September 2022. Until that time, the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021 remains in force. Unvaccinated midwives who wish to return to practice after 26 September will need to apply to Council for a practising certificate.

We are happy to welcome Diana Austin who joins the team as Senior Advisor - Midwifery Education, as well as Tamara Lomas as Project Manager for the Aotearoa Midwifery Project and Liz Parker who has been appointed Project Manager - Abortion Care Project.

Thank you for everything you do to support whānau throughout Aotearoa on their pregnancy and birth journeys.

Jessica Schreiber

Tumu Whakahaere me te Pouroki | Chief Executive and Registrar (Acting)

Word from the Co-Chairs

We were sad to receive the resignation of Dr Sue Calvert from her role as Chief Executive and Registrar earlier this month.

Sue has led the secretariat team since 2019 through periods of unprecedented challenge and change within Aotearoa's health system. She combined her skills as a midwife with strong management credentials and guided the Council through the complexities of the pandemic with good humour and complete professionalism.

As Co-Chairs we would like to tautoko Sue for her mahi and the support she gave to us and the Board as we moved to a co-governance model.

Sue built a strong and competent team at the Secretariat and we have absolute confidence in the Acting Chief Executive and Registrar Jessica Schreiber.



Ngā mihi nui Sue, for all you have given to Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council. You will be missed and we wish you every success for your future endeavours.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Ngarangi Pritchard and Kerry Adams, Co-Chairs

New Project Manager for Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu ki Hine Pae Ora | Aotearoa Midwifery Project

Kia ora tatou

Ko clutha toku awa, ko blue mountains toku maunga, no Otepoti ahau, ko Lomas toku whanau, ko Tamara toku ingoa.

I'm honoured to be welcomed into Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu and am genuinely excited to join you all on this journey into the future of the contemporary midwife.

My experience of midwifery is a sector that is constantly evolving and adapting to challenges and changes. The resilience and determination shown by you all in recent times has been nothing short of amazing and is a credit to the flexibility and adaptability of the work force.

My background is in health, predominantly in paramedicine, tactical medicine and clinical education. One of our challenges in health is that it constantly changes and evolves, and it certainly isn't slowing down. With new skills, knowledge, evidence and requirements popping up all the time it can be both an exciting and frustrating place to be!

As the Project Manager for the AMP, I'm here to listen, support and facilitate this part of the journey. There are a lot of changes going on in the wider health sector and a lot of pressures across health in general, so my aim is to keep the AMP ship steady while we navigate some rough waters around us.



Tamara Lomas, Project Manager, Kahu ki Hine Pae Ora

Meet the team

The operational arm of Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council is the Secretariat. Primarily located in Wellington, the staff carry out all the day to day functions of the Council. We will be introducing you to members of the operations team – in this issue, we would like you to meet the Senior Advisor, Midwifery Education, Diana Austin.

Kia ora, I have recently started at Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu as Senior Advisor Midwifery Education. Following a variety of midwifery undergraduate and postgraduate education roles at Te Wānanga Awanui o Tāmaki Makau Rau (AUT) and Te Herenga Waka (Victoria University of Wellington), I am looking forward to contributing further towards midwifery education. I believe we need to be constantly working towards education that prepares students for the ever changing world and the ability to address inequity, together with the community and other health professionals. Alongside my eldest daughter (I have two lovely daughters) I am enjoying learning Te Reo Māori at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa and I have taken on the Mahuru Māori challenge to only speak Te Reo to her. Feel free to ask me how I am going!

I am a keen photographer, gardener and love walks in the bush. When not in Te Whanganui-a-Tara I will be enjoying our Tāmaki Makau Rau inner city backyard with its kererū, tūtī, tauhou and pīwakawaka.



Diana Austin
Senior Advisor – Midwifery Education

Remember - midwives can be reimbursed for their flu vaccines

Visit the [Ministry of Health website](#) to find out more. You will also find additional information at the [Influenza Reimbursement Portal](#).

Note: the portal closes on 30 September 2022



For more information contact:
immunisation@health.govt.nz

Abortion legislation

Please remember that Abortion Legislation education is a requirement for all midwives this recertification period.

The course [“Introduction to the Abortion Legislation and Midwifery Roles and Responsibilities”](#) is now available for midwives to complete.

Remember to make sure to update your MyMCANZ portal once education or activities are completed.

Midwifery Led Abortion Care in Aotearoa

Following changes to the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act in 2020 the Council agreed that appropriately educated midwives could provide care to individuals seeking abortion.

In 2021, the Council consulted on the way to regulate this within midwifery practice and agreed it would develop a second scope of practice.

Midwives wishing to provide abortion services would need to be registered and hold a practising certificate within the midwifery scope and then seek endorsement in the second scope.

Liz Parker is working with us over the next two months to project manage:

- development of the project plan
- defining this second scope of practice statement for midwives
- developing the competencies that midwives will need to demonstrate if they are authorised to practise within this second scope
- prescribing the qualifications (education) that midwives will need to complete in order to provide abortion services
- considering and documenting any additional factors that need to be taken into consideration that will enable midwives to provide abortion services.



Liz's role is setting up the project framework, which will include establishing a project working group ensuring that appropriately skilled people are identified and allocated to the project.

Expect to hear more on this project over the coming weeks.

Liz Parker, Project Manager - Abortion Care Project

Health Information Privacy Code

The Health Information Privacy Code was updated in 2020. It protects the rights of health consumers and helps resolve complaints if anyone feels those rights have not been protected. Health consumers should always be treated with respect, including respect for their culture, values, beliefs and personal privacy.

The Code regulates how health agencies (such as midwives, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, health insurers, hospitals, Primary Health Organisations, ACC and the Ministry of Health) collect, hold, use and disclose health information about identifiable individuals.

The two key concepts in the Code

Purpose:

Midwives must know why they are collecting health information and collect only the information they need. Once health information has been collected from a patient for a particular purpose, it can be used or disclosed for that purpose without additional consent.

Openness:

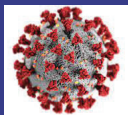
Midwives need to let patients know how their information is going to be used and disclosed so the patients can make decisions about whether to provide it.

The 13 health information privacy rules

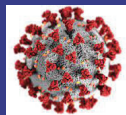
When it comes to health information, the 13 rules of the code substitute for the 13 principles of the Privacy Act. From the point of view of a health agency, the rules in the Code can be summarised:

- Only collect health information if you really need it.
- Get it straight from the people concerned where possible.
- Tell them what you're going to do with it.
- Be considerate when you're getting it.
- Take care of it once you've got it.
- People can see their health information if they want to.
- They can correct it if it's wrong.
- Make sure health information is correct before you use it.
- Get rid of it when you're done with it.
- Use it for the purpose you got it.
- Only disclose it if you have a good reason.
- Make sure that health information sent overseas is adequately protected.
- Only assign unique identifiers where permitted

Find out more about the Code from the [Office of the Privacy Commissioner](#).



Vaccine mandate to lift for midwives



The COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021 requires mandatory Covid-19 vaccinations for workers in the health and disability sector. This applies to midwives, as practitioners under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

The Order was amended on 5 November 2021 to require those who 'work' in clinical practice or in the clinical practice environment to be vaccinated against Covid-19. The mandate for remaining workers will be lifted at 11:59pm on Monday 26 September 2022. Until that time, the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021 remains in force.

Midwives must comply with the laws of New Zealand, and it is their responsibility to comply with the Order for its duration. Any midwife who does not comply with the Order, while it is in force, mustn't provide in-person midwifery care. Once the mandate has been lifted and unvaccinated midwives are able to hold a practising certificate, individual employers or facilities where access is required may still require midwives to be vaccinated.

No midwife can work without a current, valid, practising certificate, issued by Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council.

Midwives who are eligible to return to practice after 26 September will need to apply to the Council for a practising certificate.

Do we still need to wear masks?



Some midwives have queries around the interpretation of the most recent Order with regards to mask wearing.

The [Ministry of Health](#) strongly recommends masks in high risk settings.

While midwives and the whanau they care for are not required to wear a mask under COVID-19 Public Health Response (Masks) Order (2022), they should still complete a risk assessment to determine the appropriate use of PPE for their own environment.

If you are in situations where the 'three Cs' make the spread of the virus most likely, mask use is strongly recommended:

Closed spaces with poor ventilation (e.g., small meeting rooms)

Crowded places with many people nearby (e.g., crowded buses or trains)

Close-contact settings, especially where people have close-range conversations, (including singing or shouting).

The risk increases when you're in a setting that involves one or more of the 'three Cs' for a prolonged period of time.