

midwifery council
of new zealand

ANNUAL REPORT

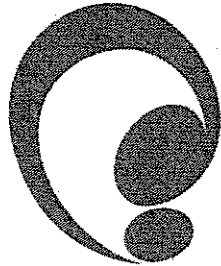
OF THE

MIDWIFERY COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR TO 31 March 2004

Report to the Minister of Health
Pursuant to s 134 of the
Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003



midwifery council
of new zealand

Minister of Health
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, I am pleased to enclose the Report of the Midwifery Council for the period ending 31 March 2004.

Yours sincerely

Sally Pairman

Chairperson

Midwifery Council

THE MIDWIFERY COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

Following the assent to the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, the Midwifery Council was established on 18 December 2003 and held its inaugural meeting on 12 February 2004 in Wellington.

The members of the Council are:

- Sally Pairman, Chair, Head of School of Midwifery at Otago Polytechnic;
- Sharron Cole, Deputy Chair and lay member, President of Parents Centres New Zealand, an elected member of the Hutt Valley District Health Board and member of a number of statutory committees in health related areas;
- Helenmary Walker, Charge Midwife at Botany Downs Maternity Unit in Counties Manakau;
- Mina Timutimu, a midwife who works with her Iwi establishing and coordinating health services for whanau and hapu;
- Thelma Thompson, Director of Midwifery at Counties Manakau District Health Board;
- Sue Bree, self-employed midwife from Northland;
- Rea Daellenbach, a lay member, teacher in the Bachelor of Midwifery programme at Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology;
- Hope Tupara, part time teacher in the Bachelor of Midwifery programme at Massey University, locum self-employed midwife and employed casually at the primary maternity unit at Levin.

The Council acknowledges the diversity of its membership and is pleased that its collective experience covers self-employed midwifery, core midwifery, midwifery education, maternity consumer perspectives, and Maori perspectives. Council believes this wealth of experience will prove invaluable as it begins its task of establishing and implementing a policy framework for the regulation of midwives and to protect the public.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

The functions of the Council are defined by the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 ("the Act"). The Council must:

- Define the Midwifery Scope(s) of Practice and prescribe the qualifications required of registered midwives;
- Accredite and monitor midwifery educational institutions and programmes;
- Maintain a public Register of midwives who have the required qualifications and are competent and fit to practise;
- Issue practising certificates to midwives who maintain their competence;
- Establish programmes to assess and promote midwives' ongoing competence;
- Deal with complaints about midwives;

- Set the midwifery profession's standards for clinical and cultural competence and ethical conduct;
- Promote education and training in midwifery;
- Promote public awareness of the Council's responsibilities.

ACTIVITIES TO 31 MARCH 2004.

In the short period of time to 31 March 2004, the Council met twice and had one teleconference.

The Council's focus was planning for preparation of full implementation of the Act on 18 September 2004. Its initial tasks were to:

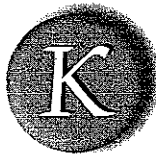
1. Consider how the Council was to fund its activities in the period prior to receiving income by way of registration and practising certificate fees from the midwifery profession; and
2. Develop a business plan for 2004/2005, the focus being to prepare at least the basic framework of policy and process for the transition of regulation of the midwifery profession from the Nursing Council to the Midwifery Council.

Given the volume of work to be done, the Council entered into a three-year contract with Registration Boards Secretariat Limited ("RBS") for the provision of administrative services including office space. The contract sets out the services that will be provided by RBS and the performance measures.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In the year to 31 March 2004 the Midwifery Council had no income and no assets. No financial transactions were entered into by the Council to 31 March 2004. This report contains a statement of verification from the Council's Chartered Accountant, Kendons.

The Council wishes to acknowledge the financial assistance of the Ministry of Health in paying travel costs for members to facilitate attendance at the first Council meeting and also the financial support of RBS.



K e n d o n s
Chartered Accountants Ltd

24 November 2004

Hon Annette King
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Annette

Midwifery Council

Based on information provided to us, the Midwifery Council had no assets, received no revenue and made no financial transactions in the period from the date it was established on 18 December 2003 to 31 March 2004.

Yours faithfully

Paul Labett



COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

All correspondence to the Council should be addressed to:

The Registrar
Midwifery Council
PO Box 10 140
Wellington

Email: susan@midwiferycouncil.org.nz

Tel: (04) 474 0740

Fax: (04) 474 0748

Explanatory note

The Midwifery Council has subsequently noted that s 134 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance 2003 requires new Authorities to adopt a balance date no later than 15 months after establishment date, being 18 December 2003. Therefore Council's first balance date should be no later than 18 March 2005.

The Council has adopted a balance date of 31 March.

Although the Council was newly established and undertook relatively little activity to 31 March 2004, the Council has subsequently resolved to file a brief annual report to 31 March 2004 rather than breaching the Act by filing its first substantive annual report to 31 March 2005, which would be for a period of 15 months and 13 days.