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Media Release

Record Number of Delegates to Attend Biennial NZCOM Conference

Around 800 midwives, students and women will be in Wellington from August 24th for the 12th New Zealand College of Midwives conference.

The theme of the conference is integration, an important key to the success of our maternity system says NZCOM CEO Karen Guilliland.

“Midwives in New Zealand provide a fully integrated maternity service providing seamless care within and between the community, the home and the hospital,” she says.

Ms Guilliland has just returned from The Hague, where she was invited to speak to some of the world’s leading maternity and human rights experts about the New Zealand system which is held up worldwide as one of the best for women and their babies.

“Many countries aspire to implement a system like the midwifery led maternity service we have in New Zealand. In the UK for example, for many years, women who have wanted to be able to guarantee a one-to-one relationship with their midwife have usually had to pay an independent practitioner, at a cost of up to £4,500. In our country, it’s free to have your own midwife and outcomes are among the best in the world,” she says.

International Key note speaker at the NZCOM conference is Nester Moyo, the senior advisor with the International Confederation of Midwives. Ms Moyo will be discussing how midwives develop strong, supportive and positive relationships - with women, with one another and with others. She says, “*midwives can change the way people think and through positive relationships midwives can establish a mandate for midwifery and improve the quality of care so that excellence becomes a habit.*”

An understanding of the consumer’s perspective of the maternity services will be provided by a panel of consumer representatives and the Health and Disability Commissioner, Anthony Hill.

Karen Guilliland says the conference will discuss the various attributes which contribute to a seamless maternity service – one which provides transparency, engagement and cultural safety that meets women’s and families needs and which focuses on what helps families in their transition to becoming parents.

“Relationships are the necessary foundation of any effective, professional maternity service and are based on collegiality, good communication and support,” she says.

The conference programme will provide a broad choice of plenary and concurrent sessions which include panel discussion and debates. Midwives will explore and discuss the realities of practice, clinical issues and the latest evidence and research.

The 12th New Zealand College of Midwives conference at the Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington 24 – 26 August 2012. www.midwife.org.nz/index.cfm/1,274,0,0,html/NZCOM-2012-National-Conference

Additional:

The New Zealand College of Midwives

The New Zealand College of Midwives (the NZCOM) is the professional organisation and recognised voice for midwives and student midwives in New Zealand. (see www.midwife.org.nz).

The NZCOM represents more than 3100 members and works in partnership with maternity consumer groups such as Plunket, Parents Centre New Zealand, the Home Birth Association, La Leche League and individual women to ensure high quality maternity services in New Zealand.

The NZCOM sets and actively promotes high standards for midwifery practice and assists midwives to meet these standards through involvement in midwifery education and the Midwifery Standards Review process.

The NZCOM, in consultation with its' membership, has developed the Philosophy, Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice and Consensus Statements that guide the professional activities of midwifery practitioners. The NZCOM also provides Resolution Committees for consumers who have a complaint about their midwife's practice.

The NZCOM represents midwifery and women's health interests to government, health organisations, consumer groups and the general public. The NZCOM also represents New Zealand on the International Confederation of Midwives and is currently the representative for the midwife association members in the Asia Pacific Region.

The New Zealand College of Midwives is the only **professional membership body** specifically for NZ registered midwives. The **regulatory body** is the Midwifery Council www.midwiferycouncil.health.nz and is responsible for the protection of the health and safety of women and babies during the childbirth process by providing mechanisms to ensure that midwives are competent and fit to practise midwifery. The HPCAA (The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act) provides this regulatory framework.

The NZCOM promotes midwifery standards of practice and ongoing education courses for Midwives once they are registered. It represents and advocates for midwifery and women's health interests to government, health organisations, consumer groups and the general public.

Live births down in the March 2012 year

There were 60,860 live births registered in New Zealand in the year ended March 2012, down 2,323 from the March 2011 year. This is the lowest number of births since 2007, when 60,471 births were registered.

In part, annual fluctuations in births, reflect changes in the size and age of the population, the age at which women have children, and the number of children they have. In turn, the number of births influences the future size and age of the population.

The highest number of births ever recorded in any March year was 65,803, in 1962. At that time, New Zealand's population was just 2.5 million, compared with 4.4 million in 2012.

Additional information re: Midwives and Midwifery in NZ

- Midwives are highly educated health professionals with strong and effective accountability frameworks supporting practice.
- With the support, information and knowledge Midwives share with women, a newborn baby has the best possible start in life.

Programme - Day One

FRIDAY 24 AUGUST - The foundations of integration: Collegiality, communication and support

0700 Registration Desk opens. Pre session tea and coffee available.

0900 Powhiri and Conference Opening: Tony Ryall, Minister of Health

1030 Morning Tea

1100 Keynote Address: Developing strong, supportive relationships: Nester T. Moyo

1140 Concurrent Sessions A

- A1 Evaluating new sleeping options for New Zealand babies - Sally Baddock, David Tipene-Leach, Agneline Tangiora, Sheila Williams, Barry Taylor
- A2 On time - Linking samples and treatment for best outcomes - Joan Carll, Dianne Webster, Diane Casey, Sian Burgess
- A3 A group approach to mentoring new midwives - Sue Lennox
- A4 A safe sleep co-ordinator's role - a first for New Zealand - Sue Davey
- A5 Passion for continuity of care. The intertwining of primary and secondary care - Nicky Snedden
- A6 Co-operation, collaboration and communities of practice - Carolyn McIntosh
- A7 The town midwife and the country midwife - Korina Vaughn and Cathryn Knox

1230 Concurrent Sessions B

- B1 E Moe Mama, maternal sleep and health in Aotearoa/New Zealand: Preliminary findings of large scale perinatal sleep study - Bronwyn Sweeney and Leigh Signal
- B2 Unnecessary infant genital reassignment surgery: Dignity - Diversity - Choice - Jeanie Douché and Mani Mitchell
- B3 The geographies of birth - Pauline Dawson
- B4 From little things big things grow: Growing breastfeeding support in communities through The Big Latch On - Isis McKay and Nicola Macdonald
- B5 Learning midwifery face to face or via the screen, does it impact on student engagement? - Tania Milne and Joan Skinner
- B6 The work-life balance tool and other recommendations - Heather Donald, Liz Smythe, Judith McAra-Couper
- B7 Warm babies, warm homes: A collaborative approach to addressing a health issue in practice in the hospital, community and the home- Maureen Hammond, Gina Woodward, Ludmilla Vlassoff-Smith

1310 Lunch

1410 Joan Donley Memorial Address: An autonomous profession meeting the needs of women. Are we achieving Joan's vision? - Sally Pairman

1450 Concurrent Sessions C

- C1 Sustainable Lead Maternity Care (LMC) midwifery practice: What sustains LMC midwives in practice in New Zealand - Judith McAra-Couper and Andrea Gilkison
- C2 Exploring health professionals' perception of best practice for women presenting with threatened miscarriage - Debra Betts
- C3 Weight and height and their potential impact on MSS1 results - Emma Jeffs
- C4 The Pohutukawa Journey: Quality initiatives to improve service delivery following perinatal loss: Christina Cuncarr, Gail Austin, Anne Chapman
- C5 What influences women's decision-making regarding their planned place for birth? - Celia Grigg
- C6 Antenatal milk expression by women with diabetes: Changing practice at C&CDHB - Maria Hakaraia and Penny Wyatt
- C7 Building a local midwifery workforce: A blended model of midwifery education at Otago Polytechnic - Jean Patterson, Sally Pairman, Christine Griffiths, Suzanne Miller, Sally Baddock, Rae Hickey

1530 Afternoon Tea

1600 Midwifery Panel Discussion: A day in the life of a hospital midwife

1700 Midwifery Student Presentations

1730 Welcome Reception amongst the Trade Exhibition, including poster session

Programme - Day Two

SATURDAY 25 AUGUST - Working with women: The New Zealand context of maternity

0800 Registration Desk opens. Pre session tea and coffee available.

0900 Health and Disability Commissioner: Interdisciplinary working: Anthony Hill, Health and Disabilities Commissioner

0940 Consumer Panel Discussion: What constitutes excellent postnatal care from the woman's/families perspectives?

1030 Morning Tea

1100 Using IT systems to integrate midwifery practice and involve women in maternity care planning: Chris Hendry

1140 Concurrent Sessions D

- D1 The emotional journey of labour: Blending an understanding of women's emotions with neuroscience for physiological birth - Lesley Dixon
- D2 The Jewel in the Crown: Small tutorial groups the hub of the midwifery programme - Mary Kensington, Rea Daellenbach, Lorna Davies
- D3 Maintaining competence in midwifery practice - Susan Calvert
- D4 Changing the story of homebirth - Kass Ozturk and Jo Walton
- D5 Waikato Hospital neonatal outcomes: Have they been improved by introduction of a standardised newly born resuscitation programme? - Janet Black
- D6 The advantages and challenges of using a group session model to engage high priority groups in antenatal education and care - Diana Murray, Louise Banga, Annette Hobbs-Tuitea
- D7 Midwives and immunisation - beliefs, information and professional development: An exploratory study - Fiona Hermann

1230 Concurrent Sessions E

- E1 The value and importance of involving fathers in maternity care - Dave Owens
- E2 Gaining midwifery practice wisdom from a narrative-centred curriculum - Andrea Gilkison, Lynne Giddings, Liz Smythe
- E3 Enhanced smoking cessation support in the context of LMC midwifery practice - Janaya Anisy, Rose Barker, Kate Nicoll
- E4 Implementing the maternity quality and safety programme across a District Health Board - Lisa McKeachie and Lesa Freeman
- E5 Cutting Down: Addressing the caesarean section rate through educational media - Cheryl Benn and Leona Dann
- E6 Midwives working with women: optimising placental birth-optimising birth? - Jane Stojanovic
- E7 Stay calm and carry on: Participatory action research (PAR), as a 'slow' research approach - Lorna Davies

1310 Lunch

1410 Practice Panel Discussion: Organisational frameworks that impact on midwifery autonomy

1530 Afternoon Tea

1600 Debate: Does continuity of care matter more than the woman's conditions?

1700 Nga Maia

1730 Close of Day Two

1900 Conference Dinner

Programme - Day Three

SUNDAY 26 AUGUST - Midwives working globally - the New Zealand contribution to global midwifery

- 0800 Registration Desk opens. Pre session tea and coffee available.
- 0900 Global advances in the understanding of breastfeeding:** Carol Bartle
- 0940 Panel Discussion: ICM and the New Zealand contribution**
- 1030 Morning Tea
- 1100 Panel Discussion: Global issues affecting maternal well-being**
- 1150 Concurrent Sessions F**
- F1 Normal birth and maternal mortality:Tensions and challenges within developing countries in relation to MDG5 - Joan Skinner
- F2 Our Sri Lankan experience: The conflict between cultural safety and best practice: Rebecca Duff, Megan Grimwood, Jan Gomez, Alexis Fletcher
- F3 How do you work with them? Midwives experiences of working with women who use illicit drugs - Maureen Miles, Karen Francis, Ysanne Chapman
- F4 Exploring women's experiences of eating during pregnancy - H Paterson, GJ Treharne, EJC Hay Smith
- F5 The Maternity Manifesto: Better Beginnings - Denise Hynd
- F6 Disruption of sacredness at birth: A clash of cultures - Susan Crowther
- F7 Tiakitanga, Hapaitanga, Tautokotange i Te Whangai U - Midwives working with women to protect, promote and support breastfeeding - Raeleen de Joux
- 1230 Lunch
- 1330 Keynote Address:** Observations and analysis of the ways midwives work internationally. Their achievements and the challenges we face moving to 2015: Nester T. Moyo
- 1410 NZCOM CEO Address - Karen Guilliland**
- 1445-1530 Closing Ceremony**
- NZCOM President Address - Ann Yates
 - Introduction to new President - Sue Lennox

ENDS

12th New Zealand College of Midwives Conference - 2012 At the Michael Fowler Centre

Please contact Ali Jones, External Media Advisor on 027 247 3112 for further information.
www.alijonespr.co.nz