

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT NZ COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES CANTERBURY/WEST COAST REGION

AUGUST 2019 AGM

This report covers the period within our region from August 2018-August 2019, and is presented to members at the AGM on Tuesday 6th August 2019. This has been a busy year for the NZCOM Canterbury/West Coast Region, with a number of significant events happening both regionally and nationally that have had implications for our members. Our membership has increased this year to 518 members across the region.

Work has continued on the development of a new funding model for community midwifery. Following formal mediation with the Ministry of Health in December 2018, work commenced with renewed commitment to the settlement agreement between the two parties. A budget bid was prepared as an interim measure of good faith from the Ministry, and this was successful in achieving an uplift to existing Section 88 funding in July 2019. We are now focused on drafting a new funding model, along with scoping an agreed 'fair and reasonable' rate of pay, and developing a Midwifery Provider Organisation. We expect implementation of the new funding model to commence in July 2020.

I have attended all three meetings of National Committee over the year as the regional representative, as well as taking part in a number of telephone conferences as required by the group), and a chairpersons workshop (July 2019). I attended the National AGM held in Auckland in July, and at this meeting we formally welcomed a new president for the College.

Other regular representation as regional chair has included monthly Maternity Operations Group meetings, monthly Director of Midwifery meetings, and our own monthly College meetings. This year we have enjoyed working closely with Director of Midwifery Norma Campbell, and we are now seeing the beginning of socialisation and implementation of the first Maternity Strategy for our region.

Consultation and feedback have been provided on a number of regional matters, including consulting on the Maternity Strategy development, participation on the Primary Response Group regarding measles epidemic, review of the Maternity Quality & Safety Clinical

Indicators and Annual Report, attending presentation of the MQSP report, , liaising with consumer representation, and attending a number of other meetings as requested.

Within the wider community, we continue our work with alliancing and developing productive working relationships with key organisations. NZCOM Canterbury/West Coast remain a formal partner to the Canterbury Clinical Network, and we receive regular updates from the Alliance Leadership Team. The region continues to develop other alliance partnerships also, which this year has involved me meeting with the CDHB Maternity Projects manager, the programme director of the Canterbury Clinical Network, the Midwifery and Maternity Provider Organisation, the Choosing Wisely campaign, and the Ministry of Health. We now hold representation on four Service Level Alliances within Canterbury.

I have also contributed to the MMPO Business Workshops, the WellChild Provider Update, represented midwives at a multi-disciplinary meeting hosted by the Canterbury Clinical Network (CCN), and have met with representatives from CDHB Planning and Funding department, NZ Breastfeeding Alliance, and Homebirth Canterbury. The region is pleased to continue a close, supportive relationship with the Midwifery Resource Centre in Christchurch.

In June I travelled to Timaru with CE Alison Eddy, where we met with members to discuss workforce changes and challenges, and provide an opportunity to discuss topical issues. Vice Chair Davina Geddes met with members on the West Coast earlier this year, and provided an opportunity to discuss College matters there. South Canterbury is now holding meetings for members, and we are working towards having capability for members to attend regional meetings virtually, via videoconference.

As regional chair, I have represented the region a number of times with media interviews and opinion.

Our region continues to support the ongoing education of student midwives, including highlighting the need for clinical placements for students when the need arises, and welcoming student representatives to our regional meetings and education sessions. The region has also provided dedicated financial support to enable student midwives to attend the NZCOM Conference, and will provide support for attendance at the Joan Donley

Research Forum later this year. We provided funding to support an IDM event focused on mindfulness and self-care for student midwives. I presented to first year students at Ara on the role of the College in our region, and also attended an independent programme review consultation.

This year our region has continued to be involved with a Capacity and Capability Contract with the Ministry of Health, and this enabled us to maintain strong regional representation across the wider health sector, and continues to have a significant impact on bringing future leaders forward for our region. We hope to be able to repeat a leadership development workshop later this year, to maintain this exciting momentum.

We have a number of sub-committees at work in the region, who will report separately on the fantastic work that they are doing, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of these groups for all the time and effort they put in to supporting the region. We now have a well-established research sub-committee, which has been very valuable in terms of receiving and reviewing invitations for members to participate in local research. Our Komiti Kawa Whakaruruhau is undergoing a regeneration of members at the moment, and we look forward to where this group will head in the future. We were delighted to finally launch our wonderful new regional website this year, and this now provides an excellent central point for information for members and our wider networks. As always, the education committee continue to provide well-attended and interesting education sessions throughout the year. The Wellness Committee must be acknowledged for the wonderful work they do in supporting regional members. We have experienced significant grief and loss within our community this year, and this team have stepped up phenomenally to wrap support around those affected. Our publicity group have also been outstanding this year, organising a wonderful quiz night for International Day of the Midwife celebrations, and representation at various community events. I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing work of our Midwifery Standards Reviewers, Resolutions Committee, and PEAC representatives.

The work we undertake within the region continues to focus on achieving the goals within our regional strategic plan, and in particular, our sub-committees are ensuring we meet many of these objectives. Areas for ongoing attention this year will be; promoting access to primary maternity facilities in the community, ensuring we promote and inform midwives

about postgraduate education opportunities, building relationships with Maori community groups, and promoting midwifery as a career pathway for Maori. Other focuses this year will include; improving access to NZCOM meetings for the sub-regions, holding a leadership development workshop, developing position descriptions for office bearers, and hosting the College national conference next year. We will also review our regional strategic plan to ensure it remains dynamic and relevant.

The region remains in a stable financial position, and we are now working to an approved budget which is enabling us to reach our goal financial position. I must acknowledge the incredible work Melanie Welfare does for the region in her role as treasurer.

This year we have seen Helen Fraser appointed to the role of LMC Liaison to the CDHB. She has embraced the challenges of this role with impressive energy, and established herself as a respected and effective leader within this environment. She has taken on attendance at a wide range of representative meetings, and consistently advocates strongly for midwifery in all environments. Thank you Helen for the fantastic work you are doing in this role.

As this is my final report as regional chair, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge all those who have supported me in this role over the past three years. It has been an intense roller-coaster of a journey, and I have loved representing our fantastic region in so many different areas. I could never have known where this journey would take me when I started out, and as I move forward on my own path I feel certain I will find ways to continue supporting midwifery as I go. I hope to celebrate with you all next year as we witness the birth of a fair and sustainable funding model for the work we all love so much.

Thank you all so much for attending tonight, and supporting the work of your regional representatives. A huge thank you and welcome to those who are stepping into new office bearing roles within the region tonight.

Nga mihi,

Violet Clapham

Chair, NZCOM Canterbury/West Coast Region