

ADHB midwives welcome their new Director of Midwifery Deb Pittam. We're very excited, and look forward to her leadership. Her passion for midwifery, and for women's health is exciting and stimulating.

We thank Angela Harvey and Raff Slight, Midwifery Unit Managers who stepped up in the interim period between DoMs. Their positive outlook and hard work during particularly trying circumstances demonstrated inspiring leadership.

We have also welcomed Christine Mellor, Midwifery Consultant to ADHB, who is supporting the senior leadership in quality and safety projects.

We have continuing vacancies, particularly in our in-patient areas, and have rolled out the "3Rs" campaign to respond to this challenge. Recruitment, Retention and Responsiveness are key factors in strengthening our midwifery workforce. This project is still in the early stages, but has the opportunity to come up with new innovations. Watch this space!

Our community team is also facing increasing workloads, with a shortage of LMC midwives in our catchment area. Our diabetes team and high risk fetal medicine teams are seeing increasing numbers of referrals, reflecting the growing number of pregnant women with medical conditions needing specialist care.

In these challenging conditions it is heartening to see passionate midwives work as part of a truly effective multi-disciplinary team, and provide woman-centred care.

Our quality team and senior leadership group are developing several projects aimed at improving the way we care for women and babies. We are in the process of developing a "physiological birth" project which hopes to increase our rate of normal vaginal birth. This is one of several projects which provides opportunities for leadership activities as part of our strong QLP program.

As a regional tertiary unit, and a national unit for both women and babies with complex cardiac problems we are developing our midwifery workforce with our in-house "Maternity Complex Care" programme. This is designed to increase the skills and knowledge base of core midwifery staff who provide care in our "Maternity Complex Care Area (MCCA)" when called upon.

I look forward to seeing our midwifery workforce grow, with ongoing recruitment, improved retention, and an exciting professional development programme that provides a variety of career options.

E tu Kahikatea  
He whakapai ururoa  
Awhi mai awhi atu  
Tatau tatau e!

*Stand like the kahikatea tree  
to brave the storms  
embrace one another  
We are one together*

