

AGM Chairs' Report Auckland Region

Increasing engagement

We have focused on strategies which aim to increase engagement including:

A Regional Facebook page set up and administrated by Sarah Ballard. This now has 100 members.

A new 'what you missed' format with more information around what is happening in the region.

Lunchtime meetups with the Chairs and/or members of the Committee. So far these have been done at Auckland City Hospital, Botany/Pukekohe/Papakura/Birthcare primary units; MMH community midwives, and North Shore and Waitakere areas. These meetings have been well received and allowed time and space for midwives to ask about Auckland NZCOM and boarder midwifery issues, and get advice from each other; this has certainly facilitated better connections with and amongst midwives. These will continue.

Working on recommendations from the 2018 Auckland review

Consultant Jill Ovens began working alongside the Committee considering recommendations that came out of the 2018 Auckland Review including regional communications, processes, Resource Centre location and function, and also the Auckland Constitution. See attached report from Jill Ovens. This project work comes to an end in August.

Midwifery advisor for the Auckland region

We look forward to having a midwifery advisor who will be based in Auckland. Jill Ovens has been progressing ideas as part of her project work, and considering what is possible for the region. We have been giving this some thought and think that this role could incorporate the research committee role, working with the three DHB's regarding consistency of information that goes to consumers, e.g. place of birth information, developing consensus around some areas of interest, connecting projects across all three DHB's; this would put the NZCOM as central to all 3 DHB's. We also thought that this role could incorporate some supervision of midwives (all food for thought at this stage) and possibly an education role too.

Farewell and celebration for Karen Guilliland

A well-attended farewell for outgoing NZCOM CE Karen Guilliland was held with a feast and entertainment. This was a high point for the Auckland region NZCOM and brought together midwives from across Karen's career.

The committee and committee meetings

There have been changes to the makeup of the Committee, in that student rep Aroha Tukerangi stood down, and two new consumer reps from MSCC joined us in a shared position; Adith Stoneman and Emma Ryburn.

The committee meetings are very well attended by the whole committee. Members work well together and are well engaged in progressing ideas and college work across their DHB areas.

Regional Meetings have been held across the DHB areas including Waitakere Hospital, North Shore Hospital, Auckland City Hospital, and Nga Hau Mangere Birthing Unit. Feedback from midwives across the region about this has been very positive and reflects greater engagement and appreciation of these meetings being rotated to their areas. We as committee members have also appreciated hearing their teams' successes. This we feel has helped to engage the midwives both core and LMC.

Members are now offered the option of attending Regional Meetings virtually via Zoom. A lapel microphone and camera have been purchased so that the option can now be offered when Regional Meetings are held off-site.

Alison Eddy addressed the region as a guest at the Regional Meeting in her new role as NZCOM CE. She has agreed to provide this open forum every second month for this year at the Erson Avenue evening where zoom was available. The first session was really well attended, and much appreciated by midwives across the region. Alison Eddy is going to be available via zoom every second meeting at Royal Oak meetings for an open forum.

The International Day of the Midwife was celebrated with feasting at the Regional Meeting (Auckland City Hospital) where Simon Rowley presented about the effects on babies when women take 'P' during pregnancy, the Auckland Diabetes midwives shared with us some of their services successes, and ADHB DOM Deb Pittam was introduced. We also celebrated Rhonda Kerrins' huge contributions to our profession and wished her well for her retirement.

Research sub-committee

A research sub-committee is being formed and three midwives have volunteered to be part of this along with Christine Mellor. This group will meet via zoom bi-monthly to begin with. The aim of the group is to increase the College's understanding about what research projects are impacting on midwives in Auckland, if this additional work is considered reasonable and relevant, and if there are particular research projects (or research findings) that would be of interest to College members, and can then be incorporated into our regional meetings. The first zoom meeting will be held in July.

NZCOM representatives

A NZCOM Auckland Reps meeting was chaired by Ady Priday in February. New processes around reporting were introduced. This has proven to be challenging as time has restrained the level of oversight and connection that the committee has with the various groups, and feedback back to the committee has been limited. We have research DHB payments for reps across all three DHB's in order to support more engagement and dialogue with the decision-making work streams in each DHB's, eg LMC reps on governance groups equally.

We appear to have a plethora of reps required across all three DHB's. Some of these positions are unpaid. CMH utilises many Auckland NZCOM reps who are well respected and are paid for their time and effort. Auckland and Waitemata are progressing this model. Great work leading the way CMH.

New lease for NZCOM rooms

A new lease was signed with CCS for the rental of the Resource Centre rooms in Yarnton House for the next two years. As part of Jill Ovens project she is exploring options going forward. Regional meetings are now held in the CCS Building Kauri Room which is a much bigger room and this building has good parking available.

MSR

Many applications have been received from consumers and midwives interested in becoming MSR reviewers. MSR will be well catered for and we are currently looking at having MSR's across the regions so that midwives can engage in this process locally to them. This will be actioned by the National MSR co-ordinator in conjunction with the Auckland region.

Farewell to committee members

We would like to say a huge thank you to the members of our committee who are stepping down: Caroline Young – Resolutions Committee and NZCOM committee member.
Pete Melville – Treasurer and NZCOM committee member.

The future

Much work remains to be done. Our aim is to attempt to unite our region because as one voice we are stronger. We want to increase our interaction our presence with stakeholders and with consumer groups to ensure that the work of midwives is recognised. We must stand together in our region and nationwide and be ready to send a message to the MoH between now and the 2020

budget. This message must demonstrate the importance of retaining and valuing midwives; acknowledge our specialised skills and our superior maternal and neonatal outcomes; the value of midwives in our community; our role as guardians of birth and the importance of acknowledging the right of women to have access to a maternity system that promote primary birth as the norm. We will need all of you to be ready to play your part.