

Report from NZCOM AUT advisory committee representative

It has been my privilege to be the Auckland Region's representative on the Midwifery Advisory committee again this year.

The committee meets three times a year (only two I was able to attend due to annual leave), and these are very informative and busy meetings covering many of the issues our AUT colleagues are dealing with on a day to day basis, including (but not limited to):

Funding issues for the school, for example for new equipment/simulation training rooms

Advertising courses through social media and traditional media

Admission criteria for mature students

Support for Maori and Pasifika students both financially through scholarships, and with peer support

Transition to a 4-year course

Health and safety of the teaching staff

Clinical placement issues for students

Post graduate enrolments (all courses are available online)

At each meeting a number of reports are tabled which generate discussion. Undergraduate, postgraduate, Maori and Pasifika reports, as well as other business, examples of which are above. From my perspective as your representative, I would say AUT continues to strive to provide excellence in Midwifery education, in a safe environment which will enable an increasing number of graduates to join our workforce, and which are representative of our population.

One concern is the length of time our new graduates remain in the profession – research is being undertaken in order to tease out what makes a sustainable workplace.

New graduates are the lifeblood of our profession, and I am very impressed with the new Graduate midwives I have worked with within ADHB, they are a credit to AUT and all of the people who have taught them. All of us who interact with midwifery students (which should be all of us as it is part of our professional responsibility), have a role to play in the continued success of the School of Midwifery at AUT.

Paddy Hughes