

NZCOM CONSENSUS STATEMENT

Family Violence

*This Consensus statement was ratified at NZCOM AGM 2002
References updated 2005*

“Gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation including those resulting from cultural prejudices are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be eliminated (World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 1993).”

The New Zealand College of Midwives considers that violence against women is a risk factor that leads to adverse health outcomes.

Midwives are appropriate care providers in the detection and referral of women in pregnancy who experience violence.

Midwives:

- **require support to address the issue of violence against women within the national family violence strategy/framework**
- **undertake screening of all pregnant women for violence as part of a comprehensive health assessment**
- **understand the effect of violence against pregnant women and in particular in relation to sexual and reproductive health**
- **acknowledge the woman has the right to define choice of action/referral or support**
- **are familiar with referral agencies that provide support, counselling and emergency services for women experiencing violence**
- **can provide information resources to pregnant women on local emergency support services**
- **do not support routine mandatory referral when violence has been disclosed.**

References

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| Title | <u>Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action</u>
World Conference on Human Rights |
| Source | http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menus/wchr.htm . |
| Title | <u>Te Rito New Zealand Family Violence Prevention Strategy</u> |
| Source | Ministry of Social Development, February 2002 |
| Title | <u>Family Violence Intervention Guidelines</u> |
| Source | Ministry of Health 2002 |
| Title | <u>Putting Women First : Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Domestic Violence</u> |
| Source | World Health Organisation
Copies of this available via e-mail – garciamorena@who.int |

The purpose of the New Zealand College of Midwives Consensus Statements is to provide women, midwives and the maternity services with the profession's position on any given situation. The guidelines are designed to educate and support best practice.

All position statements are regularly reviewed and updated in line with evidence-based practice.

- Title Violence against women in New Zealand: Prevalence and health consequences
 Authors Fanslow, J & Robinson, E.
 Source The New Zealand Medical Journal on line
<http://www.nzma.org.nz/journal/117-1206/1173/>
- Title Developing midwifery responses to women in their care who are living with violent men
 Author Steen, M
 Source MIDIRS, September 2000, Pg 313
- Title Pregnant Women, Violent Men. What Midwives need to know
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- Title Care and Advocacy: Moral Cornerstones or Moral Blindness when working with women experiencing partner abuse?
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- Title Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women
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- Title Let's stop child abuse together – An interagency guide to breaking the cycle
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