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## Media Release

### **A welcome Map for the maternity future**

The New Zealand College of Midwives (the College) welcomes the release of the draft Maternity Action Plan.

“For many years the College has been outspoken about the need for national direction and support for the maternity sector,” says Karen Guilliland, CEO, NZCOM. The proposed plan has exciting potential to achieve the leadership and structure necessary to sustain quality maternity services into the future.

“The announcement by the Government of additional funding to support the midwifery workforce recognises the importance of midwives as the predominant workforce within maternity,” says Karen Guilliland.

Funding for the Midwifery First Year of Practice programme over the past two years has had a 97% success in retention and support of graduate midwives. The assurance of ongoing funding as well as the additional package for post graduate education announced today are welcomed by the midwifery workforce across both community and hospital settings.

The College will ensure all of its members have an opportunity to contribute to the Maternity Action Plan during the consultation period.

#### **Contact**

Hayley McMurtrie  
Communications Advisor  
NZCOM  
03 377 2732  
027 275 4691  
[communications@nzcom.org.nz](mailto:communications@nzcom.org.nz)

#### **or**

Karen Guilliland  
CEO  
NZCOM  
03 377 2732  
027 5495 449  
[nzcom@nzcom.org.nz](mailto:nzcom@nzcom.org.nz)