

25th November 2020

2023 Census Content

New Zealand College of Midwives

PO Box 21 206

Christchurch 8143

Tel (03) 377 2732

The New Zealand College of Midwives is the professional organisation for midwifery. Our members are employed and self-employed and collectively represent over 90% of the practising midwives in this country. There are approximately 3,000 midwives who hold an Annual Practising Certificate (APC). These midwives provide maternity care to, on average, 60,000 women and babies each year. New Zealand has a unique and efficient maternity service model which centres care around the needs of the woman and her baby.

Midwives undertake a four-year equivalent undergraduate degree to become registered followed by a first year of practice program that includes full mentoring by senior midwives. The undergraduate curriculum meets all international regulatory and education standards. Midwives are authorised prescribers in relation to their Scope of Practice as determined by the Midwifery Council.

Midwives provide an accessible and primary health care service for women in the community within a continuity of carer model as Lead Maternity Carers. Midwives can also choose to work within secondary and tertiary maternity facilities, providing essential care to women with complex maternity needs.

The College offers information, education and advice to women, midwives, district health boards, health and social service agencies and the Ministry of Health regarding midwifery and maternity issues. Midwives interface with a multitude of other health professionals and agencies to support women to achieve the optimum outcome for their pregnancies, health and wellbeing



New Zealand
College of Midwives
TE KĀRETI O NGĀ KAIWHAKAWHANAU KI AOTEAROA

25th November 2020

Stats New Zealand

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The New Zealand College of Midwives (the College) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on a topic for the 2023 Census.

The question we are interested in commenting on is the 'Number of children born'.

1. Number of children born

The College notes that revision of the scope of the topic is not possible at this time. In terms of the future census data collection we have some comments –

- The College supports the modification of the question routing so that information about children born is open to all adults.
- The College consider that it is important to report this collected data in a way that clearly enables identification of those who do identify as female and have given birth, and those who do not identify as female and who have given birth.
- The College of Midwives consider that this birth information, which is currently not available, would be valuable in terms of identifying people who identify as transgender / non-binary for the benefit of policy and resource development, and for maternity practice considerations.

- We note reports of an increasing number of people identifying as transgender / non-binary. Addressing the implications of this, in terms of gender affirming health provider models of care, is necessary.
- As Stats NZ will be aware, the investigation of feasibility, and identification of the most appropriate way to collect this data requires extensive feedback from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and Takatāpui (LGBTIQ+/Takatāpui) communities. The College of Midwives would also welcome involvement at this future development stage if possible.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Ngā mihi

Carol Bartle

Policy Analyst

New Zealand College of Midwives

Te Kāreti O Nga Kaiwhakawhanau Ki Aotearoa