

Abstract information

Kia hiwa rā, kua tūwhera te tatau o tēnei mea te hui a-rua-tau Midwifery Research Forum 2026. He tono tēnei ki ngā Kahu Pōkai o Aotearoa e mahi rangahau ana, nau mai, haere mai.

The College's biennial research forum provides an opportunity for midwives and others to share their research, audits and postgraduate studies relating to midwifery and maternity care in Aotearoa. Now in its 12th biennial gathering, the Joan Donley Midwifery Research Forum is a key event for sharing innovation and shaping midwifery practice.

We invite you to submit an abstract to showcase your work, spark discussion, and contribute to collective midwifery knowledge at the Joan Donley Midwifery Research Forum 2026.

This year, we welcome abstracts for:

- Oral presentations
- Posters

Oral presentations are a traditional research presentation format, which may be supported with audiovisual aids. Presentations are allocated **15 minutes** plus 5 minutes for Q&A.

Posters are displayed for viewing for the duration of the forum.

The closing date for abstract submissions is **Friday 20 March, 2026**.

The outcome of the selection process will be notified to authors by email by the end of April.

Click [here to submit your abstract](#)

Abstract submission includes:

- Name and email of presenter (for all correspondence regarding this abstract submission)
- Name, iwi (optional) and organisational affiliation/s for all research authors, including the presenter, in the order you wish them to be published
- Abstract written in the format of Background, Aim, Method(s), Results/Findings, Conclusion, Key message (or an alternative appropriate for the research). See below for more details.
- Short biography about the presenting author/s (maximum 50 words)
- Details of any prior presentation of this research in Aotearoa New Zealand

An example of an abstract from the previous research forum is provided in the [appendix](#) below.

Abstract format

All abstracts should be presented in a standard research format with relevant sub-headings:

- **Background:** A brief overview of why the subject is important for midwives
- **Aim:** The aim or research question
- **Method(s):** How the research was undertaken, including analysis
- **Findings/Results:** What were your main findings?
- **Conclusion:** Link your objectives and findings
- **Key message** (optional): How are the findings relevant for midwives?

Abstracts may be up to the maximum of 300 words.

Conditions of Submission

- Submissions received by the closing date will be included in the selection process.
- The advisory panel will review all abstracts with a standardised scoring system.
- Presenters and poster authors will be notified of acceptance by an emailed invitation to present at the forum.
- Conditions of acceptance:
 - At least one author presents at the forum
 - Presenters and poster authors must register to attend the forum.
 - Speakers must accept the invitation to present by Thursday 7 May and register for the forum by Friday 17 July, 2026. This date is to allow time for the finalised list of abstracts to be published in the College Journal before the forum. If there are any issues with funding by this date, please contact research@nzcom.org.nz to discuss your unique situation.
- Presenters are responsible for their own travel, accommodation and registration expenses. No speaker fee is paid.
- It is the responsibility of the submitting author to ensure the accuracy of the content, spelling, grammar and formatting of the abstract, as it will be published as it is submitted.
- By submitting an abstract, you also grant permission for your abstract to be published in the College journal, unless you opt out on your submission.

Further Information

If your abstract includes mathematical characters that do not show correctly when entered into the abstract field on the online submission form (e.g. superscript like m^2 instead of $m2$), please also upload your abstract as a Word document, using the template below. Text in an uploaded document must match the submission form in all other respects.

[Template: Joan Donley Midwifery Research Forum abstract submission 2026](#)

If the text appears correctly in the submission form, please do not upload a Word document.

Contact

Please email research@nzcom.org.nz if you have any questions about the submission process or would like any assistance with your abstract.

Registrations for the Forum will open on Tuesday 5 May, 2026.

Appendix: Abstract example

The abstract below was from the previous Joan Donley Midwifery Research Forum in 2024 and is offered as one example of how to present academic research in an abstract format.

Note – affiliations are a new request this year to enable abstract publication and are not shown below.

Partnership in a hospital setting: Consumer perspectives of hospital midwifery care in Aotearoa.

Shanti Daellenbach, Lesley Dixon, Jacqui Anderson, Arianna Nisa-Waller, Sarah Lockwood, Eva Neely

Background: Midwives in Aotearoa, regardless of work setting, practise within a model of midwifery partnership. Soliciting feedback on practice provides an essential mechanism for midwives to work towards improving their practice. The New Zealand College of Midwives provides a process for consumers to give feedback directly to a midwife, via consumer feedback forms.

Aim: To identify the characteristics of midwifery care that contribute to positive and negative midwifery care relationships within the hospital setting.

Methods: A retrospective mixed methods approach was used to analyse online consumer feedback forms received between 1 January and 31 December 2019. Quantitative data from

the forms was analysed descriptively followed by a reflexive thematic analysis of the qualitative data.

Findings: There were 1,284 online feedback forms received for hospital midwives in 2019. The majority of birthing whānau who submitted feedback were satisfied or very satisfied with their care (92%), with statements on cultural care and breastfeeding having the lowest positive responses (89.3% and 87% respectively). Four key themes were identified in the qualitative analysis as contributing to a positive midwifery care relationship in a hospital setting: Building trust quickly, Respecting decision-making and Fostering maternal confidence, resulting in Meaningful partnerships. The negative experience themes were found to be the inverse of these, resulting in an Absence of partnership.

Discussion: The quality of the relationship with a hospital midwife is important in shaping the maternity care experience of women and birthing whānau in Aotearoa, who value when hospital midwives work with them in partnership. The findings highlight culturally safe care as an area where improvement is needed.