

Satish

By email: fyi-request-14619-0881011e@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202100725

Dear Satish

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 5 February 2021. I shall respond to each part of your request below.

The New Zealand Midwifery Council (NZMC) is the responsible authority (under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act, 2003) that registers midwives for their mandatory annual practicing certificate (APC). NZMC also produce an annual report on the demographics of the midwifery workforce. The Midwifery Annual Report includes data such as workforce numbers, age, gender, ethnicity and hours of work. Some of the information included in this report is based on the 2020 Midwifery Annual Report. The detailed Annual Report can be found on the NZMC website at www.midwiferycouncil.health.nz/Public/Publications/Annual-reports/Public/03.-Publications/Publications-Type-A/Annual-Reports.aspx?hkey=ad216505-605a-44cd-93c8-922bebc3f67.

1. *Total Number of midwives working in NZ (at the time of providing the response to this request).*

All midwives practicing in New Zealand must hold an APC. The most up-to-date data collected by the NZMC as at 30 April 2020 indicates there were 3274 midwives with active APCs.

2. *Provide a detailed breakup of Midwives who are NZers by birth vs Foreigners (For example we have 150 midwives working, and out of that 100 are NZers by birth, and 50 have come here from the other countries).*

The Ministry of Health (The Ministry) does not have data about where midwives working in New Zealand were born. Therefore this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

However, The Ministry does hold information on midwives' primary qualification country. As at April 2020 of the 3274 registered midwives, 807 hold an international qualification and 2467 hold a New Zealand qualification. It should be noted that some of those holding international qualifications may be New Zealand citizens who undertook or completed their training overseas, and some of those with New Zealand qualifications may have been born overseas but did their training here.

3. *Total Number of midwifery students enrolled in NZ at the moment (be it any NZQA level).*

As of October 2020, the total number of new enrolments in midwifery pre-registration education programmes was 239.

4. *Provide the forecast of the number of people with midwifery education/skillset retiring in the next 3 years.*

The Ministry does not have data or a forecast relating to midwifery retirement numbers. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act.

5. *Provide the forecast (if you have any), the demand/number of people that NZ would require in the next 3 years with midwifery skills.*

The Ministry does not have a forecast for the demand for midwifery skills New Zealand would require in the next three years. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act.

6. *Does MoH has any plan to provide free education/waiver to all the students who have enrolled in midwifery?*

The Ministry supports undergraduate study through the provision of scholarships, which assist in meeting fees and costs associated with study. These scholarships are for eligible students, which may include students who are undertaking midwifery studies. There are no plans of providing free education/ to waiver tuition fees to students who have enrolled in midwifery studies.

New Zealand has a Fees Free scheme available that targets first-time learners. People interested in a career in midwifery may be able to get one year's study or two year's training fees-free. There is an eligibility criteria tool available at the following link: www.feesfree.govt.nz.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on The Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Yours sincerely



Anna Clark
**Deputy Director-General
Health Workforce**