

## Trans-Tasman Midwifery Education Consortium Terms of reference

### **Purpose**

The Trans-Tasman Midwifery Consortium (Consortium) provides leadership and strategic direction to drive progressive, high quality, evidence informed midwifery education, recognising education's important role in shaping maternity services in Australia and New Zealand.

Foundation to the Consortium's efforts is the implicit understanding that continuity of midwifery led care provides the best maternity outcomes for childbearing women and their babies and that the goal of midwifery education is to prepare midwives for this role.

### **Underpinning principles**

- Midwifery is a distinct profession from nursing;
- The education of midwives must be led by the midwifery profession;
- Midwives are autonomous health professionals with a defined scope of practice who collaborate when/if required to achieve the best outcomes for women and their babies;
- Midwives should be well-prepared/educated to work to their full scope of practice and meet the ICM definition of a midwife and a Bachelor of Midwifery degree is key to this principle;
- The needs of most childbearing women are best met by maternity care provided within midwifery led continuity of carer models of service delivery and so midwifery led continuity of care models should form the foundation of our maternity services and pre-registration midwifery education programs; and
- Education opportunities for midwives beyond those that lead to registration, should support the underpinning principles described here and facilitate the development of midwifery knowledge/maternity services that hold childbearing women at the centre.

### **Role**

The role of the Consortium is to drive the transformation of midwifery education in Australia and New Zealand by identifying and undertaking research and providing a united voice and direction for midwifery education.

The Consortium will achieve this by:

- Working to strengthen the midwifery education standards to ensure future midwives are well positioned to practice as autonomous, competent practitioners to meet the needs of childbearing women;

- Sharing knowledge and skills relating to the education of midwives in Australia and New Zealand;
- Disseminating information that informs midwifery education in Australia, New Zealand and beyond;
- Working in partnership with Indigenous (or first peoples) women and organisations;
- Leading innovation and collaborative research that informs midwifery education in Australia, New Zealand and beyond; and
- Actively influencing policy at local, national and international levels to strengthen midwifery education.

### **Commitments**

The Consortium members commit to;

- contributing ideas and suggestions;
- attending at least 50% of scheduled Consortium meetings;
- actively contributing to the work of the Consortium where appropriate;
- championing the work of the Consortium; and
- fostering Consortium collaboration by open, honest and respectful discussions and sharing relevant communications and information as appropriate with the Consortium members.
- Adhering to principles of respectful discussion and personal confidentiality guided by the Chatham House Rule<sup>1</sup>

### **Membership**

All members should be committed to the purpose, principles and role of the Consortium and commit to playing an active role in progressing the work of the Consortium

There are two types of members:

- Voting members
- Non-voting members

Voting membership:

1. Is open to organisations providing midwifery education programs that lead to registration as a midwife or tertiary level postgraduate midwifery degrees in Australia and New Zealand and invited organisations Australian College of Midwives (ACM), New Zealand College of Midwives (NZCOM) and Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM) (Organisation).
2. Each Organisation will have one vote in any decision making process.
3. Quorum for voting of 50% + 1 and must include at least one Australian and one New Zealand representative.

<sup>1</sup>When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

Non-voting membership:

1. Will be individuals who have been invited to join the Consortium.

To join the Consortium, an interested Organisation must submit an expression of interest to the Consortium outlining their commitment to the Consortium purpose, principles and commitments. Membership applications will be reviewed at the next available Consortium meeting and a decision made by the voting members.

A full review of Consortium membership activities and engagement will be undertaken annually by the voting Consortium members. At this stage, Consortium members who do not meet the requirements of the Contributions, may be asked to step down.

Consortium members may resign membership of the Consortium at any time. Voting members are asked to find a suitable replacement prior to stepping down.

<sup>1</sup>When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

### **Co-Chairs**

The Consortium will be chaired by two members of the Consortium as appointed by an election process annually. The Co-Chairs will share the secretariat role. The term of the Co-Chairs is normally 12 months and members may serve no more than 24 months as a Co-Chair in succession. The Co-Chair positions will include a representative from New Zealand (if possible) and Australia. In the instance where two Co-chairs cannot be appointed one chair will act until a further co-chair can be appointed.

The Chair's will be responsible for;

- setting the agenda for meetings;
- chairing meetings;
- recording minutes
- leading discussion and providing all consortium members with opportunity to contribute;
- facilitating the timely completion of the Consortiums' work;
- casting a deciding vote in a tied vote of the Consortium;
- approving meeting minutes and actions; and
- arranging the meeting technologies (e.g. teleconference, video conference or meeting rooms).

### **Frequency of Meetings**

The schedule for meetings will be the responsibility of the Co-Chair, in consultation with the Consortium members. The Consortium should meet formally at least four times per year in addition to addressing matters arising at any time. Ideally meetings will be held within business hours