National Maternity Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cost pressure</th>
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Budget 2018 includes $9.0 million in 2017/18 of new operating funding and $103.6 million over the next four years to support community midwifery services. About half of that funding will go towards an 8.9 per cent ‘catch-up’ increase in fees for over 1,400 lead maternity carers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding ($m)</th>
<th>2017/18</th>
<th>2018/19</th>
<th>2019/20</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
<th>2021/22 &amp; outyears</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>9.000</td>
<td>25.900</td>
<td>25.900</td>
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<td>25.900</td>
<td>112.600</td>
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What the initiative is buying

- The fees increase has been informed by a range of factors, including CPI and DHB collective agreement increases, and means that average annual increases over the last decade for community midwives are now in line with average increases for DHB midwives.
- $10.0 million over two years to recognise the self-employed nature of community midwifery and the costs associated with that model.
- $16.0 million dollars over four years to ensure safe hours of work during lengthy labours. Currently midwives who call on colleagues to take over care during a lengthy labour have to fund this out of their own fees.
- The remaining $27.6 million over four years recognises population and demand pressures.

Expected impact

- More women accessing community maternity services funded under Section 88 (shifted from DHB service provision), particularly in rural hard-to-staff areas.
- Address workforce retention issues.
- Earlier access to care resulting in higher first and second trimester service volumes.

Key Messages

Budget 18 includes a funding package for community midwifery services. This funding package is to recognise the need to pay community based midwives for the work they do supporting women and whānau through pregnancy and childbirth up until 6 weeks postnatally.

New Zealand has maternity outcomes comparable to or better than many other developed countries. However, midwives have been under pressure and there is a need to:

- address longstanding remuneration concerns
- improve access to community-based midwifery for women and babies most in need
- address workforce shortages in some areas.

To develop this budget package, the Ministry of Health worked with the New Zealand College of Midwives to agree on the most urgent priorities for funding to improve access to safe, integrated, high quality care. The Ministry is already working with NZCOM and DHBs on implementation so that midwives receive improvements to their working conditions as soon as is practicable. The Ministry is committed to work with maternity service users, NZCOM, DHBs and the broader maternity sector, and agree the priorities that will sustain maternity services into the future.