

 NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES (INC)

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*midwives working
with women*

integrating community,
home and hospital



Conference Handbook and Book of Abstracts

B5 - Lion Harbourview Lounge 1 (Yellow)

Learning midwifery face to face or via the screen, does it impact on student engagement?

Tania Milne¹ and Joan Skinner²

¹ Senior Academic staff member, Wintec (Waikato Institute of Technology)

² Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Victoria University of Wellington

This research examines the impact that flexible delivery of teaching has on student midwives learning and engagement. It does this by describing the impact of different modes of flexible delivery within a new curriculum on students in a pre-registration midwifery undergraduate programme at Waikato Institute of Technology (Wintec), New Zealand. This new curriculum commenced in 2010 as a response to legislative and industry driven changes to midwifery education in New Zealand. Changes to the old curriculum included the support and provision of a "variety of flexible modes of delivery" and that "flexible modes of delivery are used to enhance and support access for students outside main centres" (Midwifery Council of New Zealand, 2007, pp. 27-28).

The research used an on line survey to ask student's enrolled in years one and two of the programme and those that had exited the programme during the same timeframe a range of questions about their learning experiences. The aim of this research was to describe how undergraduate midwifery students who have teaching delivered flexibly experience student engagement and to examine the impact of flexible delivery on students success.

The research found that that students preferred face to face sessions, that there needs to be further research undertaken to identify the learning needs of Maori midwifery students. That participants from the regional learning hubs appeared to be higher qualified prior to entry into the BMid programme than their Hamilton city hub counterparts. Participants identified there were differences with a sense of belonging, and identified differences and challenges with computer technology.

I currently work at the Waikato Institute of Technology as a senior academic staff member. I have a passionate interest in the on-going development of sound educational strategies for flexible delivery of learning in Midwifery and supporting student engagement. I am presenting the findings of my research into the impact flexible delivery has on engagement.

E: Tania.Milne@wintec.ac.nz

Notes