

Have you got support?

The death of a baby or mother can be a difficult time for all involved and we would encourage you to seek support.

These are just a few examples of people or organisations that you could go to for help or advice:

- Friends, family and whānau
- Kuia or kaumatua
- Your midwife, nurse or doctor
- Spiritual advisor, chaplain, pastor or minister
- Funeral director
- The mental health services of your local DHB
- Sands – Stillbirth and Newborn Death Support www.sands.org.nz
- Kidshealth – www.kidshealth.org.nz
- Skylight – 0800 299 100 or www.skylight.org.nz

Do you want to contact the PMMRC?

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns:

Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee

PMMRC Secretariat
PO Box 5013
Wellington
Telephone: 04 496 2000
Email: pmmrc@moh.govt.nz

Vicki Masson National Coordinator Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee

Private Bag 92019
Auckland 1020
Telephone: 09 3737599 EXT 84440
Fax: 09 3035969
Mobile: 027 372 4833
Email: v.masson@auckland.ac.nz

The names and contact details of our local coordinators are on the website.

If you want more copies of this pamphlet please contact the PMMRC Secretariat.



Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee

*He matenga ohorere, he wairua uiui,
wairua mutunga-kore*

Information about the Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee

*He matenga ohorere, he wairua uiui,
wairua mutunga-kore*

*O eternal spirit - the grief of a sudden,
untimely death but we will not stop our
pursuit and endeavours to seek answers*

The Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee extends its deepest sympathy to all family and whānau whose loved one has died.

Who are we?

The Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee (PMMRC) was set up under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000.

Members are appointed by the Minister of Health and bring a wealth of experience. They include people from midwifery, nursing, obstetrics, paediatrics, pathology, anaesthetics, consumer groups and Māori and Pacific communities.

More information about the members and the Committee in general is on the website www.PMMRC.health.govt.nz

What do we do?

The PMMRC's primary function is to review and report to the Minister of Health on perinatal and maternal deaths in New Zealand.

- We define a perinatal death as one which occurs when a baby dies at 20 weeks of pregnancy up to 28 days after birth.
- We review maternal deaths if a mother dies for a reason related to her pregnancy or childbirth.

Where can you go for information?

The best person to talk to is your midwife, doctor or another person who provided care. If a coroner has been involved you can also ask the coroner for information.

How do we collect information?

When a baby or mother dies the midwife, doctor or other health professionals complete forms with detailed information on both the mother and baby.

As well as filling out the forms, sometimes a local group will review a death and send extra information to PMMRC which, by law, must be treated in the strictest of confidence.

We also have local co-ordinators in every region, these people are legally appointed agents of the PMMRC (their names are listed on our website). These agents can collect information and are governed by our strict confidentiality rules.

All the information is gathered on a database and reviewed by PMMRC. The Committee then uses the information as a basis for its annual reports which contain recommendations to the Minister of Health on how to reduce the number of perinatal and maternal deaths in New Zealand.

What are we looking for?

When reviewing the information PMMRC considers:

- Anything that contributed to the death which may be preventable.
- Any systems, processes or policies that need changing.
- More ways to keep mothers and babies safe.
- Areas where more research is needed.
- Other ways to improve the support given to families.

Can you send us information?

The law requires us to keep all information we gather private and so we do not report on individual deaths. This also means we cannot share information we have with anyone else including members of the family, midwives, doctors or other organisations unless the Minister of Health gives us special instructions to do so.

If you would like to contribute information please feel free to do so (our contact details are over the page).

How do we keep information safe?

All our information is stored on a secure database.

Specific information provided to PMMRC is treated as strictly confidential.

Any information that is published by the PMMRC (in the annual reports) is grouped and individuals are not identifiable.

What do you do if you have a complaint?

The PMMRC does not respond to complaints. If you want to make a complaint about the quality of care you received please contact one of the following:

- Your midwife, doctor or other health professional.
- The manager or complaints department of the place that provided your care.
- The Health and Disability Commissioner Ph 0800 11 22 33.