MIDWIFERY REGULATION AND COLLABORATION WITH WOMEN

BACKGROUND
The ICM has adopted a number of position statements that are supportive of the rights of women in their reproductive years and an International Code of Ethics for Midwives that is clearly inclusive of women in the decision-making process that governs their care. While the midwifery profession should be self-governing within the legislation enacted in any country, it is appropriate that women who are reliant on the quality of their caregivers be included in the organisation that develops and oversees any midwifery regulation.

POSITION
The ICM endorses the inclusion of laywomen on the governing body that oversees and manages midwifery regulation in any country. It recommends that representatives be identified from within the women’s organisations concerned to advance the quality of care in their country.

The ICM also recommends that governments and those engaged in the revision or drafting of midwifery regulation, consult with a broad range of women as to the content of such regulation and its application within their nations.

RECOMMENDATIONS
Member Associations are urged to consider how consultation with women could become a reality and work to achieve this goal.

RELATED ICM DOCUMENTS
ICM. Position statement. Partnership between women and midwives (2011)
ICM. International Code of Ethics for Midwives (2011)
OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS
Price K, Patterson E, Hegney D- 2006: Being strategic: Utilising consumer views to better promote an expanded role for nurses in Australian general practice. Collegian; Journal of the Royal College of Nursing Australia, Vol 12; Issue 4; pages 16-21

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