



**For Immediate Release
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College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Responds to the Release of the PMMRC Report

The New Zealand Committee of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) has today welcomed the release of the PMMRC Report covering the period 1 July – 31 December 2006, for perinatal deaths and the whole of 2006 for maternal deaths.

‘We believe the Report is the beginning of a long-term strategy of gathering and analysing data about maternity services that is long overdue,’ said Dr Gillian Gibson, Chair of the New Zealand Committee of RANZCOG.

‘However the data only covers just below 30,000 births over a six month period in 2006. We feel that this sample size is inadequate to make valid international comparisons and highlights the lack of data collection that has occurred in the past.

‘We urge the Ministry to publish a larger and more up to date dataset,’ said Dr Gibson today.

‘The Maternal mortality statistic is a concern to the College and we welcome the PMMRCs recommendations on how to address this very important issue.

‘The College will be examining the report in detail, and are keen to work with the Ministry and other professional bodies to improve the outcomes for women and babies,’ said Dr Gibson.

**For further information or to arrange an interview with Dr Gibson, please contact:
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