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Riddiford Street,
Newtown, Wellington, N.Z.

Telephone 859-844

TO: Chief Executive
FROM: Director of Medical Services, Wellington Hospital
DATE: 24 December 1980
SUBJECT: Birth and Beyond Project
Ref: Your Memo 8 December 1980

A meeting was held on 23 December 1980.

PRESENT:

Ms Ros Capper and Ms Skinner, representing Birth and Beyond Group
Professor R.J. Seddon)
Miss J. Motley) Wellington Womens Hospital
Miss M. Lawton)
Dr M. Hoby, Neonatal Intensive Care
Miss P. McInness, Community Health Services
Mr G.R. Laurenson, Chairman

Ms Capper and Ms Skinner outlined their requirements which was of a house close to the hospital as stated in their previous submission. Midwifery services would be negotiated with Department of Health. No fees would be charged thus avoiding Private Hospital Regulations.

They would hope to receive assistance with autoclaving from the hospital and that the hospital would act as a backup in the event of an emergency.

They conceded that there was a greater physical risk to mother and child but felt that psychological advantages outweighed this. They considered that their educative function would be just as important or more important than the actual attendance to the birth. They were concerned to try and promote more human attitudes and to promote feelings of self worth and achievement.

Professor Seddon suggested that it would not be impossible to develop their programme within W.W.H thus conserving scarce educational resources. Ms Capper and Ms Skinner agreed to inspect facilities in the hospital to consider development of their project within the hospital. Miss Motley and Miss Lawton will assist them in this.

The Chairman stated that the hospital was not opposed to their aims but that professional advice was against home deliveries on the grounds of increased risk. In the event that they did establish their birthing facility in a house the hospital would always respond to an emergency situation but would prefer that a birth facility be established for their use in the hospital if possible to reduce the element of risk.

Ms Capper and Ms Skinner will report back after inspecting the possibilities in W.W.H.

G.R. Laurenson.