

2a Raroa Crescent  
Kelburn

13 January 1981

Mr G R Laurenson  
Director of Medical Services  
Wellington Hospital

Dear Mr Laurenson,

On Monday 9 January I followed up the invitation to see some rooms at Wellington Women's Hospital with a view to using them as an in-hospital birth and education centre for Birth and Beyond Incorporated.

Miss Motley and Miss Lawton showed me a four-roomed isolation unit (the unit on the 9th floor is the possibility in mind), an examination room with adjacent office on the delivery floor and two rooms in the basement which are adjacent to the conference room there. The use of the isolation unit would be subject to Wellington Women's Hospital having the use of the floor which is not yet commissioned.

Other members of Birth and Beyond Incorporated are also familiar with the above rooms.

It is our belief that these facilities are not suitable to fulfil the objectives and create the 'special character' intended by our society.

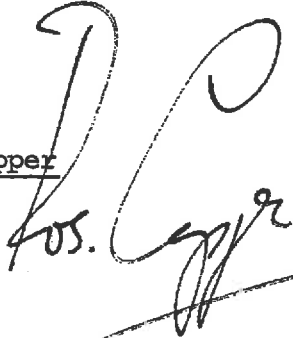
Apart from the facilities there are the following reasons for our society being committed to an out-of-hospital Birth Centre :

1. We would be able to create a family home-like environment more easily.
2. We wish to cost this Centre carefully and this would be very difficult within an existing institution.
3. We wish to provide a service for those women who do not wish to go to hospital and for whom home birth is also not acceptable or possible.
4. Overseas experience has shown that it is difficult to avoid the biases of hospital staff when a different approach is taken to birth.
5. We believe that education resources for ante and post natal support programmes would be considerably expanded if a house outside the hospital setting were made available for the use of consumers and interested parent educators.
6. We have carefully studied the overseas data relating to out-of-hospital birth centres and comparative studies of hospital and home birth, and we are completely satisfied that a Centre such as we propose to establish would provide safe alternative for low risk mothers.

Thank you for arranging the meeting on 23 December. Birth and Beyond Incorporated will continue to negotiate with the Hospital Board to lease a property outside the hospital and we hope that an ongoing dialogue with the Wellington Women's Hospital and an out-of-hospital Birth Centre would prove to be fruitful for both parties.

Yours sincerely

Ros Capper

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ros Capper', is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.