

MINUTES:DOMICILIARY MIDWIVES SOCIETY.

DATE: Saturday 31 October, 1981, at 1430 hrs.

VENUE: 57 Queens Drive, Lyall Bay, Wellington.

APPOINTEES: Bronwyn Pelvin, Thelma Fell.

PRESIDENT: Jennifer Sage, Lyn McLean, Ursula Helem, Lynley MCFarland, Ronda Evans, Chris. Voaden, Fiona Barnett.

5) Policy: As a result of inquiries from a newspaper reporter, it was revealed that NZNA have 3 main areas of concern regarding domiciliary midwifery:-

- a) No controls over who can practice as a domiciliary midwife.
- b) No set criteria for accepting mothers for home birth.
- c) Midwives are able to charge any fee they so desire.

These points were made by the Executive Director, Miss Shona Carey, though she conceded that there were in fact no specific problems.

After much discussion, it was decided that we should formulate our own policies to try and avoid having it done for us, though attempts at this have already taken place.

Much difficulty was encountered in drawing up the first two points, but finally a broad draught was produced by Chris Voaden:-

- a) Any midwives practicing in any setting, with full responsibility, must have recent experience with labour and birth, and the midwife must refresh her practice in a specified area (s) of her own choice, for as long as she considers necessary.

Midwives intending to practice domiciliary midwifery, and those already practicing, must be in contact with a member of the DMSNZ to discuss practice, and have ongoing contact for support and evaluation.

- b) Criteria: It is recommended that candidates for home birth are:-
 - self-selected, assessed by a general practitioner for suitability, rejected if there is any obvious obstetric or medical anomaly.
 - non-smokers.
 - intending to breast feed.
 - supported by a stable network of support people.
 - availing themselves of adequate ante-natal care and preparation.
- c) Domiciliary midwives should continue to make no charge to the couple for her services.

Further discussion may be needed at our next meeting in order to formulate a final policy to distribute to NZNA, Maternity Services Committee etc.

The meeting closed at approx. 1900hrs.