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106 Chester St East

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Dear Bronwyn,

After spending 3 days at the NZNA conference & Midwives S.I.S. A.G.M., I'm even more sorry I missed our conference. I feel very much out of touch with my A.B. colleagues. I've been 'voted' chairperson of the ^{Canterbury} midwives special interest sectⁿ not hard as no one else wanted the job. Unfortunately I've just discovered I haven't paid my '87 NZNA subscriptⁿ, so I don't know what to do about that! I've been out of the NZNA arena for some years & I'm starting to remember why!

At the Conference we learnt by chance that an announcement would be made next week about the future of midwifery educatⁿ after a meeting 'c the Minister & interested parties'. Great, but who were these "interested parties" when no one had approached the midwives??! Typical!! After protesting at being left out, Karen Gilliland (now national chairperson of the S.I.S.) was hastily asked to attend to give the midwives point of view. Poor Karen felt hopelessly unprepared, but did her best. That meeting was held "in committee" (i.e. deep secret!) so we don't know what their proposals are. There will be a further meeting at the end of this month to 'finalise' things. You can bet we won't be getting direct entry, & I will be surprised if we get midwifery out of the A.D.N. without so

many strings attached we could well be worse off than ever. Sound paranoid? I also heard in the grapevine that the big plan is to get rid of mid. registrars & replace it with a certificate. Just a rumour at the moment, I think they would have to change the law to bring in that one.

I finally got to see a copy of our proposed standards, thru' the midwives section! What's happened to our communication system? After ploughing through the Section's standards, I think our ones are all covered by theirs, except praps our one about the 'apprenticeship', but even that is covered under 'Standards for Midwifery Services (as opposed to Practice) Our standards are very specific, & as such aren't really standards. The Sect's 'Standards of Practice or Service don't limit us as domiciliary mds, what's against us going along with that?'

Will have to back out of writing an article for the next newsletter (guilt + shame) but at the moment I'm doing enuf writing to give me R.S.I.

Usula is off to Bali again for a couple of months, & will continue to come & go for at least the next year. Our 'joint practice' works at well, women choose if they want one or other of us, otherwise we work it to suit us. I still hear thru' the grapevine that Celeste is saying negative things about us, but there's not much we can do & it doesn't seem worth worrying too much about.

Keep in touch, & I hope all is well with you. Last I heard from Felizi, things were going well in Northland.

See you, Maria