

20001-412-029



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

14 July 1986

Mrs Bronwen Pelvin
Riverside Community
RD 2
Upper Moutere
NELSON

Dear Mrs Pelvin

Thank you for your further letter of 28 May 1986 about increases in fees for domiciliary midwives.

As you are now aware, fees for domiciliary midwifery services have been increased by 50%, backdated to 1 April 1986. The new rates have only recently become official. However, the "new policy" process in which they were agreed to is complex, and it is some months since I determined to take your case to my Cabinet colleagues. As the plight of domiciliary midwives was already well documented I felt I could make a sufficiently strong case on your behalf, and I thus did not see the need for a meeting when you first wrote.

I hope the size of the increase will indicate my faith in domiciliary midwifery as a profession. It is, however, but a first step in updating the system under which domiciliary midwifery services are provided.

I believe there is a need to take a closer look at domiciliary midwifery services and I am suggesting to the Director-General that it would be appropriate to convene a meeting of representative(s) of your association and other interest groups such as the Nurses' Association. Before doing so, however, I think we need to await the benefit review report of the committee being chaired by Dr Claudia Scott to see how this might impact on maternity services.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Michael Bassett'.

Michael Bassett
Minister of Health