

# ❁ Domiciliary Midwives Society of New Zealand. ❁

**Secretary** Lynne McLean

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Dear

An update on the continuing saga of the 17% increase and the wage and price freeze. In November 1982 an application was made to the Dept. of Trade & Industry for an exemption from the wage and price freeze, on the grounds of hardship. The Dept. agreed that domiciliary midwives have a case and recommended to the Dept. of Health that the increase be granted. The points they made were:-

- a) that out of the small income a reliable motor vehicle must be run
- b) that an increase has not been granted for quite some time
- c) that the parity between hospital and domiciliary midwives has markedly deteriorated over the past 10 years.

The Dept. of Health have accepted this recommendation and have passed it on to the government for their consideration. What this means is that it has been passed to Mr Malcolm. If he decides that the increase is not justified, that is the end of the matter. If he decides in our favour, he will then take the case to Cabinet for the final decision. It therefore may yet be some weeks before we get a decision on this.

After several months of agonizing, I have decided to give up domiciliary midwifery at the end of March. I am therefore resigning as secretary/treasurer. I still plan to attend the meeting and conference in Auckland if at all possible, but just in case that proves impossible, please let me know of any volunteers or nominations for the position.

Copies of the Maternity Services Committee Report 'Mother & Baby at Home : The Early Days' is available from Government Book shops at a cost of \$4.50.

Kind regards,

  
Lynne McLean.