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OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

19 MAR 1982

Ms Jennifer Sage and Ms Lynne McLean  
Domiciliary Midwives Society of New Zealand  
57 Queens Drive  
Lyall Bay  
WELLINGTON 3

Dear Ms Sage and McLean

Thank you for your letter of 3 March 1982 in which you raise the question of remuneration for Domiciliary Midwives.

The government reviews the rates of all health benefits annually and this includes the payments made for domiciliary midwife services. At a time when the government is seeking to restrain and if possible to reduce expenditure on health services, I can, of course, give no assurance that any increases will be approved.

I am hopeful, however, that an indication of whether the government can afford to increase some health benefits will be available next month. The report of the Maternity Services Committee should also be ready then. If, therefore, it proves desirable for you to meet me, it would clearly be better to do so when we have some definite issues to discuss. Accordingly, I think the meeting you propose should be deferred for 6 weeks or so.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A G Malcolm'.

A G Malcolm  
Minister of Health