

20001-42-009

 **Domiciliary Midwives Society of New Zealand.**   
(Incorporated)

**Secretary** Lynne McLean  
**Address** 1/14 Rodrige Rd., Lyall Bay, Wellington.  
**Telephone** 873.801

14 August, 1982.

Mrs Isobel Smith,  
c/o Dargaville Hospital,  
Dargaville.

Dear Mrs Smith,

I have been following the publicity regarding the disastrous "under-water" birth in Auckland recently.

At a time when the Minister of Health, his Department and the public at large are scrutinizing home births and domiciliary midwives, your irresponsible actions have dealt us an untimely blow, from which it may take several years to recover.

The key to happy and safe home birth is preparation and planning. Ante-natal care and education, establishment of trust and rapport with midwife and medical practitioner, emotional security, support from partner, a comfortable and familiar environment, and many more aspects all contribute to a satisfying and unharzardous birth experience for the mother and the baby. These criteria were not heeded by either the mother or yourself.

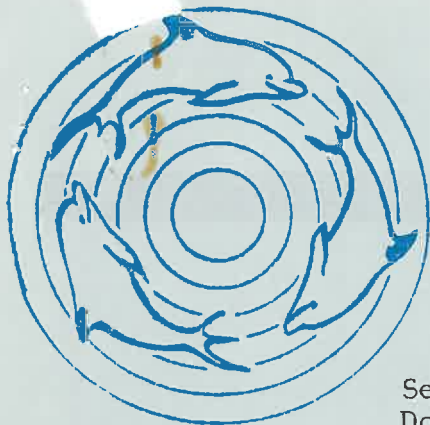
You seem to be greatly influenced by Estelle Myers and her philosophies; perhaps now you will think through the whole subject of birth and develop your own philosophies, stick to the rules which you must make yourself if you are an independent practitioner, and be prepared to take responsibility for your decisions and actions as a licenced midwife.

I hope this has been a learning experience for you, and that if you practice as a domiciliary midwife in the future, you will be very much more selective in the mothers you accept.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne McLean,  
Domiciliary Midwife,  
Wellington.

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# THE RAINBOW DOLPHIN CENTRE

21st August, 1982

Secretary, MS L MCLEAN  
Domiciliary Midwives Soc  
1/14 Rodrigo Rd  
LYALL BAY WELLINGTON



Dear Ms McLean,  
As Isabelle Smith is at present in Pithiviers, France with DR MICHEL ODENT  
I am taking care of her mail. Your letter of August 14th arrived yesterday.  
Thank you for your thoughtful comments to Isabelle.

Isabelle is a very strong, capable and dedicated woman and midwife, the only rule that applies at this centre is I SPEAK FOR MYSELF and I DO NOT TELL OTHERS WHAT TO DO. A result of my years of research into Holistic Health and Healing, helping others to discover their own brilliance, potential and authority. I have had the pleasure of working with some of the most humane and pioneering doctors in the USA, in fields of Cancer, Death and Dying, Therapeutic Healing by Touch, Catastrophically Ill Children.....the current project on WATERBIRTHING is only one of the aspects of my own work....it was never intended to get into a discourse over hospital versus home birthing. In fact, I have very accurate records to prove that I have kept the medical authorities informed of every move. It was the local Health Department that instructed us to treat the Waterbirth as a home delivery.

I want to agree with you on the choice of mother and preparation, both of which Isabelle and myself are aware of... Melissa Clarke Reynolds was to have birthed in hospital... a major breakthrough for us all. No doubt you are now aware that a local doctor, midwife and hospital refused to assist. The only reason that Isabelle and I then drove to Auckland to attempt to organise something on arrival. We even discussed the possibility of using National Womens....however on arrival in Auckland...the ONLY OPTION we had was to support Melissa and birth the baby. Which although was not in ideal conditions...highly professionally supervised by Isabelle. We were not able to persuade Melissa or her mother, to take further care...and they wilfully left our care. The PPH was an obvious result, predicted by both of us to Melissa before they left! Perhaps the only way that the girl was able to get the kind of care and attention needed for her and the baby that day, as she was unwilling to 'stand up' to her mother. I have spent the last 6 years of my own life in 'human potential and counselling' and have not come across such a serious case of mother/sibling control and manipulation!

You are quite right in it being a learning experience for all of us! I think you will find that the attendant publicity in fact will eventually help all of us in our common purpose to bring about natural, loving, nurturing environment for the beginning of new life....especially after the forthcoming conference. Many of the American midwives will be here to share, and Isabelle will return from France to report first hand of the work of the most remarkable OBG in the world...now about to be recognised for his years of dedicated work with midwives only to assist him.

This is a personal invitation to come and experience for yourself and perhaps discover that we are as truly dedicated as you and your associates.

RD 3 DOLPHIN PLACE, TUTUKAKA, NEW ZEALAND ... PHONE: NGUNGURU 306

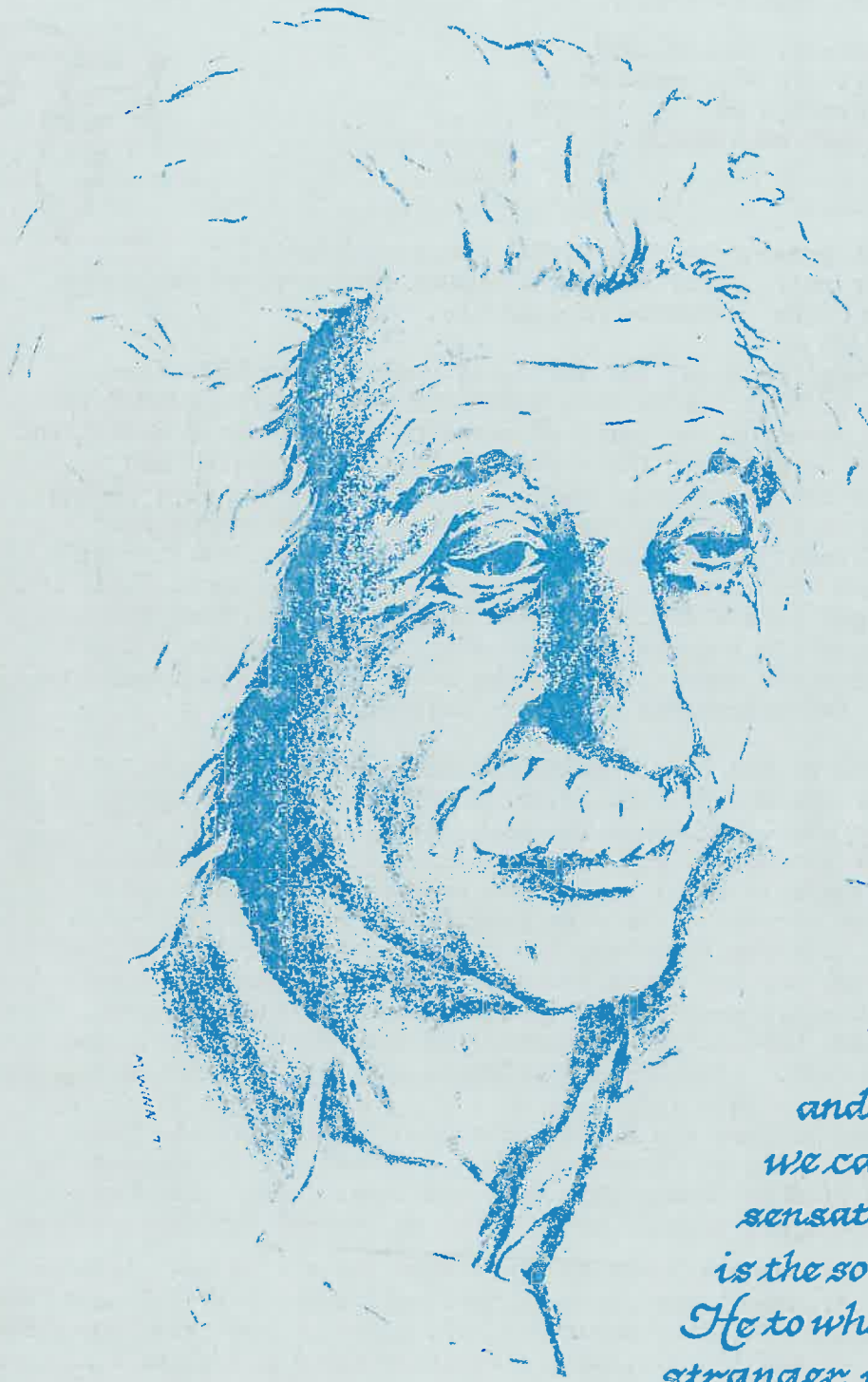
Yours faithfully,

*Estelle MYERS*



ESTELLE MYERS

## Gallery Of Genius



*"The most beautiful and most profound emotion we can experience is the sensation of the mystical. It is the sower of all true science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer*

*stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead. That deeply emotional conviction of the presence of a superior reasoning power, which is revealed in the incomprehensible universe, forms my idea of God."*

*Albert Einstein*