

20001-43-011

April 18th, 1983

Dear Synne,

A note to let you know that I won't be at the Domiciliary Midwives meeting in Auckland — work has me committed to being here though Chris will be able to get away — we hope. Have had a very slow start to the year with my lone fan booking ending up a C/S mid-February after a long nonprogressing labour. So I hope I haven't forgotten how to deliver a baby! Chris has had several births this year and I'm busy from May onwards — on it goes in drobs & drabs.

Really sorry to hear that you can't continue with domiciliary work. And I understand the difficulty in coming to that decision. And Chris is also unable to continue with the work after June — financial reasons. I struggle on feeling so fortunate that I live in this community which is prepared to support me in doing the midwifery work and bear the cost of it while allowing me the rewards and hopefully getting some contribution from me when time permits.

The M&C report hasn't quite got to me yet — I'm playing it all by ear until I see when, where and how it will affect my practice here in Nelson. Having experienced the great Bonham at an obstetrical seminar

here last year, I see his stamp all over the things. O well, maybe it will have less effect than we think.

Had a visit from an American midwife from Oregon called Lorraine - she may have contacted you in Wellington - interesting to hear of her work there - midwifery is legal in Oregon and a private midwife can run a clinic, do home births etc with no hassles.

I hope the meeting goes well - must admit to feeling a little apprehensive about the direction of the Society - I feel pretty strongly that we need to be seen as ~~an~~ co-operative & communicative with the established obstetrical people rather than an extremist group but still being strong about our own beliefs about people and the way they chose to have their babies.

Many thanks for your reassuring presence amongst us and I hope you're not lost to domiciliary work for ever and that whatever you chose to do in the meantime goes some way towards the satisfaction of home births.

Regards,

Bronwen.