

❁ Domiciliary Midwives Society of New Zealand. ❁

Secretary Gillian McNicoll

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Dear

Hope this letter finds you well. I'm writing to draw your attention to the Nurses' 'mendment Bill currently before the Government's Health and Welfare Select committee. You will be receiving a copy of this via Bob Tizard, M.P.,. There are two aspects of this bill that are particularly worrisome. The first being limiting the registration as a domicillary midwife to those who are registered midwives as well as being registered general and obstetric nurses. This would prevent direct entry midwives, returned from overseas, from working as domicillary midwives.

The second point is that this bill would empower the local medical officer of health to suspend a midwife for one month if she has been practicing unhygienically. Such standards have not been further defined and so are left to the medical officer of health's own judgment. This can only lead to problems!

We have only until October the 7th to present submissions to the Select Committee, so we have to be quick! Please make sure your local home birth association is aware of this bill.

Send submissions to: Mr. Fowler
Committee Clerk
Health and Welfare Committee
Parliament Buildings.

I have also received a letter from the National Testing Centre, Dept. of Community Health, School of Medicine, Auckland, to say that blood sample cards must be sent to the centre on the day of collection. Certain conditions tested for must be treated in ten to twenty-one days. Also the specimens deteriorate. One way of dealing with this is to have your clients mail in the sample cards themselves.

There are still some fees outstanding. Remember your sub is only \$10.00.

Best wishes,

Gillian McNicoll

P.S. At a recent meeting of the Auckland Domicillary Midwives there was discussion on setting up an independent midwifery association other than the NZNA, midwifery special interest group. A lot of midwives are dissatisfied with the NZNA. Think about it. How do your local midwives feel?