

20001-8-015

1988 MANAWATU HOMEBIRTH ASSOCIATION BRANCH REPORT

Manawatu Home Birth Statistics : April 1987 - April 1988

Booked - in Home births34
Primigravida7
Multigravida27

Normal home births29
Transfers to hospital 9 includes 3 PN trans
In labour5
of which
1 multip for hypertension - normal delivery
1 multip for pain relief - normal delivery
4 primip (3 for pain relief and forcep delivery
1 mec liquor with normal delivery)
1 mec liquor with normal delivery)

Post delivery3
of which
2 multips had manual removal of placenta
1 baby admitted with mother for phototherapy

Booked hospital births5 (these not included
in statistics, but were attended by Dom Midwives)
of which
2 were previous LSCS
1 for breech presentation
2 for distance

(All these births were normal vaginal deliveries.)

We have had a busy and interesting year since the last conference. Our birth numbers steadily increase, as has the involvement of individual members within the association. A lot of important issues have arisen, which have created a certain level of tension, but also encouraged people to take responsibility for themselves.

This year another baby was born to one of our Midwives. Ellen Salmons gave birth in September. Evan was caught by a very surprised father and the midwife caught the placenta. (the first time a midwife has missed a birth) Ellen continues to act as back-up midwife to Fiona who plans to retire at the end of this year. This leaves us with one part-time midwife for 1989.
HELP HELP !!!

This is frustrating because there are 6 Domiciliary Midwives registered to practice in the Manawatu region. However, because of personal and political reasons no one is prepared to committ themselves to a full-time case load.

The association has been very busy during 1987-88. Last year we suffered from an acute case of "burn-out", but we are very relieved to have new and inspired energy levels from members and more equitable job sharing. Communication problems which we had experienced have been alleviated through the addition of monthly committee meetings for the 12 office holders, as well as our regular monthly support meetings, which are attended by between 25 and 50 homebirthers.

Home Birth Awareness week was brilliant, thanks to our hard working team coordinated by Carey and Dominique. We had a 20 minute slot on the National Programme with a midwife and consumer, which was very well received. All our local radio stations and newspapers covered the event. We also ran a one hour long talk back radio show with a midwife and association member who were inundated with calls. We had poster, photo and book displays in the Library, a city mall and Square Edge. All in all, a most successful week for everyone involved.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Submission to the Royal Commission on Social Policy
- Submission to the planning committee for the proposed Manawatu Area Health Board
- Midwife representative on the PNHB Services Development Group for Women's Health (the last 18 months)
- Regular Domiciliary Midwife input for student nurses at Manawatu Polytechnic
- Two of our members are involved in the Manawatu Women's Health Collective, who are strongly supportive of the home-birth option.
- The positive relationship we have with our local maternity unit who support us by providing equipment and emergency back-up, continues.
- A video production (unfortunately this was not a positive or productive adventure. Primarily because the birth filmed became a hospital transfer)

- another pump Delivery video. Very positive & useful.
- 'Covergirl' kaitiaki April 88

We are looking forward to the conference, which always fills us with confidence, enthusiasm and renewed spirit. Thankyou Wellington for hosting the event.

Good luck for 1988-89 to the other branches.

With love

Carey Aburn and Fiona Barnett