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DATE... 13.5.93

TO Terry MUIR

FROM Tricia Thompson

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SUBJECT: Homebirth

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS

3

Midwives Meeting

# MESSAGE

Please advise if there are any pages not received or any other transmission faults

Please note change of address  
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Happy Midwives meeting and Homebirth Conference  
 I'm very sorry I can't be there with you. Tricia

There were 25 babies born at home in Taranaki in 1992  
 A bit down from 30 the year before, but not much; 20 booked  
 for me for this year.

Jenny Burnham attended	1 HB	+ 52 Domino
Gay Clough attended	1 HB	+ 26 "
Maree Gendell-Baker "	1 HB	+ 17 "
Jan Gangan "	1 HB	+ 10 Domino + 6 Labour support

plus 1 undiagnosed breech

planning homebirth, transferred in labour - vaginal birth in hospital  
 with obstetrician, and returned home.

Tricia Thompson - I attended 21 Homebirths + 16 Domino.  
 plus 1 Antenatal Transfer - severe pre-eclampsia at term  
 induced and normal birth in hospital with me  
 plus 2 In labour transfers (my first!) Both primips -  
 1 for foetal distress at 7cms  
 1 for failure to progress beyond 3cms.  
 Both had caesareans.

One of the Homebirths transferred postnatally with  
 PPH & retained placenta for manual removal under g

Issues ① One of the issues for me is a definite need  
 for an <sup>end of</sup> November meeting of Homebirth midwives. As  
 there are more Domino births I get less support to be  
 "different" and need to get together with others like wise.

② I broke my leg in November (That's why I wasn't in  
 Nelson). Although I managed to do 7 births with  
 my leg in plaster, it gave me a bad fright - what if it  
 was my arm? I'd urge all midwives (especially sole family  
 wage earners) to look at income protection insurance.

Just to let you know whats going on around the place, I've had 3 births this year that have lead to complaints of various strengths:

(i) A woman who had declined a scan, delivered an anencephalic baby girl on new years day, at 32 wks. She was treated "like a naughty school girl" for not having had a scan, by the admitting obstetrician. [Mucked the hospital statistics up by having a NND instead of a tidied-under-the-carpet termination]. Deborah does not regret the way it happened, however ("You midwives never do scans - look what happens...").

(ii) Complaint to the College of GPs because I refused to sign an agreement absolving the GP and acknowledging that this woman was high risk because of beta minor thalassaemia and previous PPH. (Gid talked to Karen G. + Bom). I wrote a letter taking full responsibility for my midwifery actions. I took over her care at 36 wks (after shared case) and attended a homebirth. [I wasn't strong enough to cope with open confrontation, and we had let it be believed she was going to have a Domino birth with me].

(iii) Formal complaint to The A.H.B.'s Maternity standards Review Committee asking for my access contract to be revoked because I refused to accept medical advice and went ahead with a homebirth for a woman whose platelets were low (135). (She bled 50mls at the birth)

Both good outcomes, very happy & supportive parent but some bad feelings amongst Doctors.

Also Gay has just had a woman who went home from hospital, and the baby died at 27 hours old. No post mortem results yet, but mutterings about midwife examining babies. [Smoker, bottlefed baby, in waterbed with parents].

There have also been lots of great births and no complaints or problems!! Hope things are well with you all.