



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DISTRICT OFFICE**

NATIONAL INSURANCE BUILDING, GARDEN PLACE, HAMILTON,
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7 April 1981

Ms Barbara MacFarlane, M.A., LL.B.,
Secretary,
New Zealand Home Birth Association,
P.O.Box 7093,
Wellesley Street,
AUCKLAND 1

Dear Ms MacFarlane,

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

Thank you for your letter dated 26 March 1981 referring to the visit made by Ms Sian White to this office on 20 March 1981 when she met Miss Dickson, Principal Public Health Nurse and myself.

I am sorry that I would appear not to have made my thoughts clear in the course of the meeting because I have no knowledge, nor has Miss Dickson, of a maternal death with an Auckland domiciliary midwife present.

Nor am I not in favour of domiciliary midwifery, but I have some reservations about a midwife from Auckland undertaking domiciliary midwifery so far away as Waihi, a journey of some 90 minutes I believe.

I feel a domiciliary midwife should have more face to face contact with the patient during the ante-natal period than would be possible in the Waihi situation and have more opportunities to confer with the medical practitioner responsible for the antenatal care.

Yours faithfully,

E.H. Gordon
Medical Officer of Health