20073-25-016

Fryer Road
R.D 1
Kaitaia
14.11.83

Dear Barbara,

I thought you might be interested in this interchange of letters regarding the role of the Medical Officer of Health in relation to domicillary midwives.

As we have recently lost the domicillary midwife for our area, our Support group have had numerous discussions on ways of making the "health authority" aware of our needs.

We understood that it is the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health for our area to assign us a midwife if such a request is made. Therefore, we thought a good way of making our needs known, + hopefully gaining a midwife for our area as well, would be for all ladies intending or hoping to have a home birth, to write to the Medical Officer of Health + make such a request.

It would appear that the Medical Officer of Health's role in Northland is not considered to be what we understood, so I would appreciate your comments + advice on how to deal with this reply.

In my case, we actually now expect to be in the Auckland area for the birth of our baby + I have booked with Sian White to be present for the birth. However, I

I feel very strongly about families being able to have a choice in where their birthing takes place + with whom. So would be prepared to follow this up further if it seems appropriate to do so.

Thanking you

Regards

Judi Strid

(copy)

2·11·83

Medical Officer of Health
Dr. J. M. Brownlie,
Health Dept.
Whangarei.

Dear Dr Brownlie,

I understand that as the medical officer of health for our area that you have the responsibility of assigning a midwife to us for the birth of our 4th child - due date April 2nd '84.

Our 3 previous children have all been home births + we feel this is the most appropriate choice for us. We have the support + assistance of our G.P.

Unfortunately the domicillary midwife who was working in the Kaitaia district has now left, so we would appreciate your selection of another midwife to attend our home birth.

Thanking you for your assistance in this matter,

Yours faithfully
Judi Stid.