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Hello,

My name is Janett Sultzback. I got your name from the Napsoac Directory of Alternative Birth Services. I'm an American RN with Lay Midwifery training, as an RN I've worked Obstetrics one year, (Labor, delivery, postpartum & nursery), witnessing approximately one hundred births, catching four. I'm also helped with approximately two dozen home births in Oregon & Hawaii, catching two. I have six months hospital pediatric experience.

At this time I'm interested in working in an Alternative Birth Center with a group of midwives or working with a midwife/midwife as a team. Could you let me know about midwife services in your area/country. I would be interested in moving to your country if there was work. Also could you send me midwife licensing information in your country & if my training is transferable. Thank you,

Janett Sultzback

are interested in alternative birthing situations at this stage although do list any experience you have had in conventional hospital situations. There is a shortage of nurses in N.Z. at the moment and the Health Dept. is actively recruiting from overseas so there shouldn't be too much difficulty in getting NZ Registration in Nursing. However if you want to work as a midwife you will need to train. As I mentioned the training here in N.Z. is one year - the catch is that N.Z. training is not recognised anywhere else in the world. So unless you are planning to settle here permanently it is probably not of much value to you. The majority of NZ. women/nurses wanting to become midwives nowadays go to Britain for their training.

As a registered nurse there is probably no way you could ^{legally} work in obstetrics outside of a hospital. A few hospitals do have attached 'Home Birthing Units'. The actual delivery protocol in NZ. is a little different from the U.S.A. - most women go to hospital where they are looked after by the midwifery and nursing staff on duty until 2nd stage when their G.P. is contacted and comes in for the delivery. Thus the majority of babies are actually caught by a G.P. A growing percentage of women choose private specialist care or are referred to a specialist antenatally and are therefore delivered by the specialist. A very small percentage of women are able to arrange a home birth - they are 'supervised' antenatally by a G.P. who is usually present at the birth, but labour and delivery are 'conducted' by the midwife who actually catches the baby. All non-specialist maternity care in N.Z. is free.

I hope this information is of some use to you. We of course welcome even the thought of getting more midwives to join the domiciliary ranks. We are lobbying frantically for improved wages and conditions and training for midwives but have to tread carefully in case we press too hard and lose Health Benefit cover for H.B. making it available to only those women who can afford to pay privately.

Sincerely

Brenda

Brenda Hinton
President AHBA

Please feel free to write again if you require any further information I may be able to supply.