

Roots St East,
Feilding,
25/3/86.

281
20073-218-063

Dear Brenda,

I am writing on behalf of the Manawatu Home Birth Conference Committee to ask if you could participate in a panel discussion (open to questions and opinions from the floor) on the politics of Home Birth. This is to be held at National Conference Saturday 31st May 1-3pm. We are asking you to represent the 'home birth consumer', active member and lobbyist.

We are to have a specific political theme on Saturday with Annette King (M.P. for Horowhenua and active in working on women's health issues) ~~speaking~~ ^{speaking}. Next Joan Donnelly is speaking in relation to her book which is as I guess you know about the politics of birth. It seems her book might actually be launched at conference. We have decided upon this political theme as we feel it is crucial to the future of the Home Birth movement. We lack the ability of attaining adequate pay for domiciliary midwives because we lack status and power.

The others to be on the panel are Annette King, Joan Donnelly, Murray Shaw (one of our H.B. G.P.s and father of 2 children born at home) and Bronwyn (one of the Nelson midwives, chosen as Nelson has 10% of births at home & also she is on a midwives committee). These panellists are also yet to be confirmed.

We would also like to ask the Auckland Home Birth Association if they could organize a workshop for the Sunday on "Running an Effective

Home Birth Association" (in the regional sense).
We have had requests for time spent on midwife support, parent support, G.P support and communication i.e. running a H.B. association. We feel inadequate ourselves in these areas and feel Auckland is the most experienced group to do this workshop.

Our plans seem at last to be slotting into a well-linked structure and we are all feeling very positive about conference organization.

We have the founders of the N.Z. active Birth Movement (2 Tauranga women) coming to speak at conference and we also feel we have left room for free discussion and will facilitate time for national co-ordination - such as who will be doing the national newsletter in the future.

We plan to have branch supports prepared in advance and sent to us for photocopying and distributing with conference folders for this to be more efficient.

Can you please reply as soon as possible to ensure that we can prepare registration and information forms in plenty of time.

Best wishes

Jean Kennedy
(for the Manawatu Home Birth Association).