

21 September 1985

Dear Mrs Whitlow:

Re Minutes 29.8.85

Ref 202/4/11

Concerning Northland, my point was that the PPHN in that area was delaying the registration of a domiciliary midwife, and while the Department of Health may not like domiciliary midwives the alternatives are worse, i.e. women will (and are) having babies on their own or with the support of 'lay' midwives. After all, the pregnant bodies and the babies do belong to the women concerned, not to the Department of Health!

Re Plunket, I pointed out that Plunket already is routinely advised by the Department of Health on every birth, so there is no point in duplicating the exercise. I agreed to discuss the options with women (PHN or Plunket) so that they could contact the follow-up themselves in the unlikely event that Plunket did not call.

I trust that these amendments are acceptable to you,

Sincerely

*Joan Donley.*

Joan Donley  
3 Hendon Ave.,  
Auckland 3.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIVES  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD FROM 1.50PM ON  
THURSDAY 29 AUGUST 1985 AT AUCKLAND DISTRICT  
OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ROOM 310

PRESENT

Mrs F Moffat (PRINCIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE, TAKAPUNA, CHAIRPERSON)  
 Miss M Woods (Senior Public Health Nurse, South Auckland)  
 Mrs V Ferguson ( " " " " Auckland)  
 Ms J Donley (Domiciliary Midwife)  
 Mr G Wakeley (Records Officer, Auckland Hospital Board)  
 Mrs D Whitlow (Minutes Secretary)

APOLOGIES

Ms C Petersen (Principal Public Health Nurse Auckland)  
 Miss A Nightingale (Principal Nurse, St Helens Hospital)  
 Mrs M Bourgaize (Domiciliary Midwife)  
 Ms K Burnside " "  
 Ms Y Watson " "

WELCOME

Mrs Moffat chaired the meeting and welcomed members in the absence of Ms Petersen who was attending a meeting of the Nursing Council in Wellington.

STORAGE OF OBSTETRIC RECORDS: H678

Mr Wakeley attended the meeting in order to discuss storage of Obstetric Records Booklet H678 and it was decided to deal with this matter first.

There was discussion on the length of time the hospital board was obliged to keep obstetric records and Mrs Moffat asked if the Hospital Board could make room available for storage.

Mrs Ferguson asked if hospital records were given to patients. Mr Wakeley replied that it was Hospital Board policy that patients do not have access to these and that the Board should keep them. The Board also required these for medical-legal reasons or for research which was minimal.

There was discussion on the storage of the H678 records in a hospital where a future delivery could take place, and Mr Wakeley felt the records could be held by the mother.

Ms Donley said that all home-birth patients were under the care of a general practitioner who keeps records of the patient's obstetric and medical history. Ms Donley also gives each patient a detailed medical record of both baby and mother's obstetric history.

Mrs Moffat stated that H678 records forwarded by midwives to Takapuna District Office were photocopied and stored in the respective hospital with the original returned to the midwife. This does not take place in Auckland District where the original is returned to the midwife and the photocopy stored by district office.

Mr Wakeley felt information relating to the home birth could be stored on the Health Department Computer but there would be a problem and delay in obtaining the obstetric records. He felt if the patient was responsible enough to undertake a home delivery she should be able to take the responsibility of keeping a copy of her obstetric record.

Ms Donley felt it was the patients right to have a copy of the record and the H678 booklet could be revised as there were a lot of pages of no special relevance. She also felt details of patients medical history required to be recorded on H678 were not sufficient and she maintains a more detailed history.

Mrs Moffat undertook to look into the matter further and will write to Head Office for a decision regarding the necessity of District Offices photocopying and maintaining records and the alternative of the mother either holding the photocopy, or a resume of her obstetric history such as Ms Donley prepares for patients. Any legal implications will also be raised with Head Office. The matter of the birth notification record H661 was also discussed as a means of obtaining information for statistical purposes.

Mrs Moffat thanked Mr Wakeley for attending the meeting and will advise him of the decision when this is received from Head Office.

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Minutes of Meeting held 31.5.85

Ms Donley moved that these be adopted and this was seconded by Miss Woods.

Matters Arising From The Minutes (Agenda Items)

1. Storage of Records

This was discussed at the commencement of the meeting

2. Equipment Supplied by Hospital Board

A letter was received from the Superintendent-in-Chief, Auckland Hospital Board stating that there is an inpatient principle in that the Board does not provide supplies for health workers in private practice.

3. Equipment supplied by Head Office, Department of Health

Ms Petersen has been in contact with the Nursing Division regarding disposable items issued either as a bulk supply or purchased wholesale through the department. The Nursing Division are still not able to give a decision on these matters.

Amendment to the Minutes (Page 2, Para 6)

There was discussion on the matter of travel by midwives. Ms Donley stated that she restricts herself to distances and limits travel as do other midwives. No midwife is operating in South Auckland Health District at present.

Ms Donley also discussed the problems being experienced in Northland where home births are being attended by lay midwives (friends of patient etc.)

Mrs Moffat also felt that nursing standards must be kept up and it could be stressful if midwives were travelling long distances.

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GENERAL BUSINESS

Plunket Nurse Services

Mrs Moffat asked that all midwives notify the plunket supervisor regarding home births so that there would not be a breakdown in supervision.

Mrs Donley discussed the liaison between patients and plunket or public health nurses and the informing of patients as to services available. In most instances the plunket nurse attends Ms Donley's patients towards the end of the 14 day period, with Ms Donley advising patients of services that are available.

Form H661

Mrs Moffat felt it would be helpful if the birth notification record form H661 could be returned to district together with the obstetric records, and the rubella status of the mother recorded. Some details are not being completed and midwives were asked to ensure that this was done.

Equipment

Ms Petersen had asked that the matter of midwives lobbying M.P'S regarding equipment be raised. Ms Donley felt this would have to be looked at carefully as there could be many implications if patients were under Hospital Board care and under care of an obstetrician.

Booklet : Your Pregnancy

The meeting felt the booklet was well set out but Ms Donley had criticism of several pages. This involved episiotomies, pulling baby out by the head, pain relief and effect on baby, hormonal pills and breast milk, and ultra sound as a routine. Ms Donley will document the above and send a copy to both district office and Head Office.

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There were no further matters for discussion and the meeting closed at 2.55pm.

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It was decided to hold the next meeting on 1.30pm on Wednesday 20 November 1985 in room 310 Bledisloe Building, Department of Health.