

104 Seddon Street,  
Naenae, Lower Hutt.  
18/3/90

#### 1989 HOME BIRTHS STATISTICS

As you probably know I prepare the national statistics of home births and am busy with that task. Most midwives have already sent me their forms for the 1989 year, but some are still outstanding. I am sending this request for forms to all the Home Birth associations and all the midwives on my list. Listed below are the people from whom I have received forms to date (18/3/90). This allows midwives to check that I have received all their forms. Also if you know of anybody doing home births who has not sent in forms, can you please ask them to do so.

The numbers listed are of births for the calendar year from 1/1/89 to 31/12/89. I have also received some forms for 1990 (not listed here) and some extra for years before 1989.

A couple of nice things. I have 6 forms from lay midwives in the Hokianga - all uneventful births. This is important because it gives a true picture of home deliveries and establishing the facts is what the statistics are all about. They are not shown here because they were for 1988 and one for 1987. Also I have a been receiving correspondence from the West Coast (of the South Island) with a birth there and we have a midwife at Alexandra in central Otago. So new areas of the country are taking the option to deliver at home.

C Sygrove	Mangonui	8	F Barnett	Whangarei	9
J Donley	Auckland	20	C Young	Auckland	38
R Jackson	Auckland	3	V Muller	Auckland	26
E Salmons	Auckland	28	Y Watson	Auckland	3
H Waugh	Auckland	19	M Hammonds	Auckland	38
J Woodley	Auckland	23	J Thomas	Auckland	4
J Thompson	Auckland	1	F Cowan	Auckland	1
C Hutchinsin	Hamilton	41	L Carlaw	Hamilton	14
A Sharplin	Tauranga	12	H Parsons	Tauranga	17
J Klausen	Rotorua	5	J Marshall	Hastings	31
L Belmont	Hunterville	1	C Collins	Palmerston Nth	3
R Martis	Palmerston Nth	7	J Sykes	Masterton	21
S Lennox	Wellington	6	J Skinner	Wellington	29
B Pelvin	Nelson	6	D Thomas	Greymouth	1
U Helem	Christchurch	17	M Ware	Christchurch	12
N Sandford	Rangiora	1	J Williams	Pleasant Point	4
P Gardner-Orr	Timaru	5	S Black	Alexandra	1
S Fairman	Dunedin	8	J Cranshaw	Dunedin	12
T Muir	Lumsden	10			

The next thing I need to let you know about relates to the processing of the statistics. My wife Margaret and I will soon be moving to a farm at Lake Waihola, near Dunedin, which will be closer to both our families. We will be combining farming, hydroponics and tourism. So if you know anyone who would like a holiday at discount rates in a modern farmhouse or 120 year old stone cottage by the lake, please contact me.

More to the point of this letter is that I will have a substantial mortgage, and therefore will be unable next year to spend time preparing the statistics, at least for free. I can finish them for 1989.

I am exploring the possibility of getting funding from the Health

Department. Should this fail I see two options:

1. pass the job on to someone else. The time required is about 2 to 4 hours per week to process 1000 births. The person would also need access to a computer and statistical programs, but for someone with a bit of computer experience it is not a difficult job.

2. charge the home birth mothers through the midwives. I could continue processing for \$2 per form.

The purpose of all this is to keep you informed and also to ask if you know anyone who would be interested in taking over the processing of the stats. If so, please let me know.

I plan to move at the end of April or possibly a bit before and will write to each association then notifying my new address. In the meantime, please send any statistics forms to me at the above address. By early April please if you can.

best wishes

Alex Gillanders.

Alex Gillanders

P.S. I will send extra stats forms to the Associations and to the Conference.

Bronwen - great to hear you are assisting at births without a doctor. Courageous of you but I think you have won the battle.

Alex.