

Excluded 2000(-113-001

26 May 1991

Dear Sally:

Hi, how is it going in chilly Southland? Not that it's that warm up here!

We had a good NZHBA Conference. It was good to see Mary looking so healthy, happy and blooming.

I'm writing to you about my concern re endorsement of the Otago Polytechnic direct entry midwifery programme. Bronwen sent me a copy her your letter and her reply.

My concern is over the plan to award a BACHELOR's degree, also at the inference that this was endorsed at the BOM meeting.

As I recall, we did endorse the degree course, but we were quite definite that such a degree should not be based on a patriarchal structure and terms. You assured us that since these polytech programmes are entirely new we would be able to structure them as we wanted them. In hindsight I would like some firm reassurance of this.

You correctly point out in your Report 'A Framework for Midwifery Education' (Jnl May 1991) re Cons: "words like Bachelor, Masters, Doctorate are inappropriate for midwifery(and) Midwifery must not distance itself from its power base."

Yet, the Auckland HBA has not received any request for comment on the Otago Polytechnic DEM programme.

In fact, the NZHBA Conference, Nelson 18/19 May were concerned about the NZCOM endorsement of a degree course and passed a remit: 1) urging NZCOM to support the DEM programme as a Diploma of Midwifery; and
2) demanding direct consumer consultation in the development of DEM curricula.

I know that the time is short, but the implications for the future are far-reaching so it's important that decisions have the endorsement of consumers.

It is also important the the Regions have an opportunity to debate the pros and cons before a firm decision is made.

Otherwise, what was the point of having you make a video of your arguments if the decision is already a fait accompli?

Looking forward to your response.

Love & peace if there is any of the latter to be found in today's market forces environment.

John

c.c. BOM,
Bronwen
Ak HBA