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✻ Domiciliary Midwives Society of New Zealand. ✻

Riverside Community

R.D. 2

Upper Moutere

3/11/90

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing as the secretary of the Domiciliary Midwives Society (Inc) to support the concept of a direct entry midwifery education programme as outlined by the Direct Entry Task Force of the Save the Midwives organisation and supported by the New Zealand College of Midwives.

Midwifery is a profession distinct from nursing both in its philosophy and practice. It is based on the normal physiological function of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium occurring in healthy women. The Domiciliary Midwives Society believes that around 85% of women can give birth without problems. For midwives to be able to support, encourage and enhance women's experience of childbirth, it is important that that they be educated in a way that enhances the normality of the process without undue concentration on the problems that may arise.

With the recent passing of the Nurses Amendment Act and given the current shortage of midwives in New Zealand to fulfil this independent role, the Society looks forward to the establishment of Direct Entry Midwifery education programmes.



Bronwen Pelvin

Secretary

Domiciliary Midwives Society