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POSTAL ADDRESS  
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TELEPHONE: 045 771 61

1/25/3

12 January 1988

Ms Cushla M Murphy  
 R D 2, Kaihinu  
 HOKITIKA

Dear Ms Murphy

Kia ora and thank you for your letter which we received 8 January, concerning midwifery courses.

I am afraid you have misinterpreted the press statement on changes to nursing courses. There is no plan to implement direct entry midwifery courses. A dual option is planned, commencing in 1989, whereby midwifery courses will be introduced for general/obstetric and comprehensive nurses independently of the Advanced Diploma in Nursing courses. A limited number of midwifery courses will be retained within the Advanced Diploma in Nursing courses. This arrangement has been reached in consultation with practising midwives.

Direct entry midwifery is an overseas concept, and is not considered appropriate to the New Zealand scene, with our small and widespread population. In line with the World Health Organisation aim of "health for all by the year 2000", nursing has a holistic approach and adopts a health focus. Childbirth is only one episode in the lives of women and their families, who experience all the health problems of the wider population. It is therefore essential that women have access to as wide a range of skills as possible.

To clarify the position in light of your comments and suggestions, minimum standards for nursing education and midwifery are set by the Nursing Council of New Zealand to comply with the Nurses Act (1977). There is provision within this Act, for credit to be given for relevant courses previously undertaken and this is assessed by the Nursing Council on an individual basis.

I suggest you write to one of the technical institutes offering comprehensive nursing courses, to gain accurate information about the content of these courses. A list of addresses is enclosed. I am sure you will be pleasantly surprised.

Yours sincerely

(Mrs) Roslyn Penna  
 Nurse Adviser  
 Workforce Development

