

Dear *Glenda*,

So much has happened recently, I have decided not to wait for Ruth's return, but to send out a newsletter now.

National Committee Meeting, 21/9/87, 18.30, Wellington

This meeting was attended by most section chairpersons, some old, some new. It was the usual marathon meeting, but we did finish by 11pm!

The main issues discussed were:

1. The next National committee meeting will be on November 11, 1987 - 1830 in the usual place. This will be another 2 day meeting with the 12th November being devoted to working on standards of midwifery education. Would all sections please review standards of practice and service so we can finalize these, and come prepared to contribute to standards of education.
2. Ministry of Women's Affairs - we have invited representatives to our next meeting or whenever convenient, to discuss midwifery issues.
3. Social Policy Commission - it is important that all sections send submissions relating to midwifery issues to this body e.g. how many midwives better utilized in the delivery of maternity services. Please send copies to National section.
4. Adoption Act - was discussed and it was decided that all sections should look at this and make comments independently. Please send copies to National section.

National Section AGM, 23/9/87, Wellington

This meeting was attended by 30 midwives from around the country. I presented Carol's report for 1986/87 and this was adopted, as was the balance sheet. Capitation fees for 1988/89 will remain at \$15.

Midwives have made a firm commitment to be fully involved in the process of restructuring NZNA so that we can find ourselves a positive position within the new structure. There was much discussion about communication between sections and we have asked again that on all matters affecting midwives nationally, communication is through National section. There has been a problem with National section communication with Auckland section and this is now rectified.

The meeting was informed that there was to be a meeting in Sally Shaw's office 29/9/87 to discuss the future of midwifery education in NZ, and that National section and NZNA had been invited. Karen Gulliland and myself were elected to represent midwives at this meeting and we spent all of the following weekend compiling a submission to present. The submission is a compilation of all work done by midwives on this issue since 1978. More on this later.

Karen and I reported on our meeting with Gay Williams 22/9/87 at which we discussed payment of ICM membership fees. As you probably know, Carol and Ruth were extremely embarrassed at the Hague conference, firstly because they were not expected as delegates from NZ and secondly because NZ was the only one of 52 member countries who had not paid their fees for 1987. NZNA is definitely on the back foot on this one and to date I have received 4 letters from NZNA apologising for this! The various letters also contained copies of correspondence between NZNA and the congress organizers which clearly show that Carol and Ruth were nominated as delegates. However I discovered from Carol today that NZNA should have communicated this to ICM headquarters in London!

Relating to finances - NZNA had not paid the membership fee and had no record of any bill being sent. This matter has now been rectified. However, these issues again raise serious problems with communication from NZNA and we have now obtained agreement from Gay Williams that in future National Midwives section will deal directly with ICM and that we will forward relevant information to NZNA and bill them for their 40% of the membership fee. Progress indeed!

Karen and I also queried the figures presented in NZNA Financial Report regarding payment to ICM for 1985 and 86. According to our records these figures are incorrect (not enough) and Gay Williams has undertaken to research this further.

NZNA Conference

This was exciting for midwives if only because we maintained a high profile and were involved in lots of networking.

Several of the policy statements presented affected midwives and it was obvious that we need to be much better prepared in future so that we can make significant comments on such policies.

Our remit was passed and our thanks to Maureen Leong for her excellent presentation. We gave a verbal report to conference about our AGM. Obviously many nurses are ignorant about midwives as there was general surprise when we announced that 28 midwives had gone from NZ to the ICM Congress at the Hague. A copy of this report has been sent to Gay Williams and to the Nursing Journal.

David Caygill addressed conference on Thursday and we were delighted with his faux pas in a response to a question about midwives. He complimented us on the quality of our submissions to him and his colleagues and said "I'm not sure whether the midwives are members of this association or whether they have their own association"!!

Meeting at Health Department (nursing)

Karen and I attended this meeting on Tuesday 29/9/87, 0900 in Sally Shaw's office. Present were Sally Shaw (Health Dept), Di Reed (Education Dept), Gay Williams (NZNA), Merian Litchfield (NZNA), Bev Robb (HOD - nursing, Christchurch Polytech), Wendy Olsen (HOD - nursing Waikato Polytech). The initial ground rules laid down by Sally Shaw at the beginning were that the discussion remain confidential and if we couldn't accept that we should leave. There was no choice but to remain, although both Karen and I were extremely unhappy with that condition and have continued to feel this way. Karen today (1/10/87) phoned Sally Shaw and explained our dilemma - that it is impossible for us to represent midwives if we are unable to discuss the options with them. Sally Shaw has agreed that the options may now be discussed so that we can present the pros and cons of each, as seen by midwives, at the next meeting. (The same group will be meeting again for further discussion and to be involved in planning implementation of whichever option is decided upon - at Health Dept. expense).

The 4 options presented by Sally Shaw are as follows:

1. direct entry
2. separate midwifery course
3. status quo remains
4. combination system of ADN/midwifery and separate midwifery

Despite the clear mandate given to us at the AGM, that we should not discuss direct entry at this time, Sally Shaw raised that option and we had to respond.

We desperately need your views on these 4 options (and any others you may have), so please discuss these and send your ideas to me as soon as possible so that we can present these at the next meeting.

Sally Shaw also wants us to discuss how we feel about registration of midwives and would like to hear our arguments as to why this should be retained.

Karen and I presented the enclosed submission at the meeting and left believing that there are positive feelings towards change of some sort.

Please work on all these issues - we must be prepared again for the next meeting, realizing that the final decisions do not lie with the midwives, but with Sally Shaw and the Minister of Health.

Following the meeting Karen and I had a private meeting with Gay Williams as we were most unhappy at the way midwives, as members of NZNA, were under represented by our executive director. We discussed these concerns with Gay and she has agreed that in future we will meet before each meeting to make clear our viewpoints and prevent any conflict of interest. Sally Shaw was also made aware today, by Karen, of our unhappiness with NZNA and that this is now clarified.

Finally, I do not believe that it is appropriate for us to make any further submissions to the Minister of Health at this time. Please work through National section.

Sorry to be so lengthy but I believe it is important that we all understand the issues at hand. On a lighter note, Carol has just returned from the Hague, but Ruth and Rhondda are still away. Carol says the trip was exciting and worthwhile and a full report will be made to us at a later date. She has been elected Secretary of the Western Pacific Region of ICM which is great for her and for us in NZ.

Good luck with your work on standards, NZNA restructuring, midwifery education options and argument for retention of registration. I look forward to hearing from you all soon!

Enclosed is:

- copy of submission on midwifery education
- copy of submission on role and value of plunket nurse
- copy of report on AGM given at conference
- balance sheet (National section)

I remind those of you that haven't already to send in your section AGM reports and notification of office bearers.

Still to come - copy of minutes of last National committee meeting and Agenda for the next one.

Kind regards,

Sally
Sally.

Also enclosed - Action statement from ICM council meeting 25/3/87 - 'Safe motherhood' will need to be our theme for conference 1988.