

NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

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12 October 1987

Judi Strid
P.O. Box 183
Ruakaka
Northland

Dear Judi,

I was interested to hear that your group is planning to press for what appears to be a long needed midwifery course.

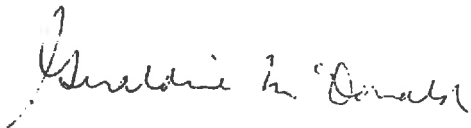
I do not have any special influence with the Department of Education but do have some idea about strategies.

1. Your request would probably be handled by the Continuing Education Division. Jenny Barclay is Women's Officer, Continuing Education. I strongly recommend that you write to her first and seek her guidance on who to approach. Another woman in the Division is Janet Davidson who has a nursing background. I would ask whether Janet would be sympathetic to your cause.
2. There may be precedents for your proposed course in training patterns or modules with which the Department is familiar. The training for child care, for example, which is currently in transition, might be worth examining. At present child care training can be field based or 1 year in a teachers college. It is moving towards becoming part of an integrated course leading to either child care or kindergarten teaching. You would probably find Pat Hubbard or Rosemary Renwick both in the Early Childhood Directorate, Department of Education knowledgeable on how to get training courses accepted.

3. You may find a Technical Institute or Community College ready and willing to mount a pilot course. In your dealings with the Department I would stress "pilot" course and say that you would like it evaluated. Evaluation usually has the effect of cementing a course into place once you get it going.
4. Is there a role in your proposals for distance education? You might explore the possibility of the Technical Correspondence Institute.
5. If absolutely frustrated in your efforts you could look for an overseas institution offering midwifery courses and see whether collaboration with a New Zealand institution is feasible. Frankly I think the last possibility would be costly but the Department of Education might be impressed.
6. I am sure you have thought of the cost-cutting benefits of your scheme and can present these clearly to the Department for consideration by Treasury.

I think that your proposals are sensible and should prevail in the end. Are the Area Health Boards of any use?

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Geraldine McDonald', written in dark ink.

Geraldine McDonald