



20001-113-018

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

15 January 1988

The Secretary  
Canterbury/West Coast Midwives Section  
136 Springfield Road  
CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Ms Guilliland

Thank you for your letter of 15 September expressing your concerns about midwifery education and for your good wishes relating to my appointment as Minister of Health. Please accept my apologies for the late response.

I have noted the points you raised in your correspondence. Since receiving your letter I have released a press statement jointly with the Ministers of Education and Womens Affairs on midwifery education. This indicated that planning is underway to establish a dual option for midwifery training. A separate course for midwifery will be available as well as midwifery for registration within the Advanced Diploma of Nursing. I note also that you are a member of the working party representing the special interests of midwives and that you have been consulted as part of the input process.

The issues you raise about midwifery education are interrelated with service delivery and the need to clarify the role of the midwife in the provision of childbirth services. I would be very interested in any research you may have or will be doing on the midwife in New Zealand as a cost effective primary health care giver as you suggest.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David Caygill".

David Caygill  
Minister of Health