

SUBJECT TO  
CORRECTION

20001-113-020

With My Compliments

JUDY KEALL  
M.P. FOR GLENFIELD

[Low-risk Births]

[4. JENNY KIRK] (Birkenhead), on behalf of  
[4. JUDY KEALL] (Glenfield), to the [Minister of Health]:  
Is he giving any consideration to greater use of midwives  
attending low-risk births?

[Hon. DAVID CAYGILL] (Minister of Health): At present midwives  
may attend any birth so long as the conditions set out in the  
Nurses Act are satisfied, which, effectively, means that a medical  
practitioner must first have undertaken <sup>general</sup> responsibility for the care  
of that patient. I have told the Nurses Association that I am  
prepared to review the requirement that a medical practitioner be  
involved as part of the general review of occupational licensing  
restrictions that the Government is undertaking at present.

[Anne Fraser]: Has the Minister done anything <sup>up to the present time</sup> to assist women  
in having a broader choice about where they have low-risk births?

[Hon. DAVID CAYGILL]: Yes, <sup>the</sup> significant increases in the fees  
payable to midwives that were announced a few weeks ago will encourage  
more women into midwifery, and so lead to a greater availability in  
future in the choice of ~~confined~~ confinement.

[Mr McKinnon]: Has the Minister concerned himself  
about the quality of midwives, compared with obstetricians  
and gynaecologists, in the broad sphere from which he expects  
the expansion to come?

[Hon. DAVID CAYGILL]: The overwhelming number of  
submissions that I have had on the matter suggest that,  
in general, there are no fears about the quality of  
midwifery; only its relative scarcity.

ORAL ANSWER DUE 11 OCTOBER 1988

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12. JUDY KEALL (Glenfield) to the Minister of Health:  
What progress, if any, has been made towards providing a  
separate training course for midwives?

REPLY:

HON DAVID CAYGILL (Minister of Health) replied:

From 1989, separate courses leading to midwifery registration  
will be available in Auckland Technical Institute, Wellington  
and Otago/Southland Polytechnics.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

1	Places available:	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
	Auckland	20	30	30
	Wellington	15	20	25
	Otago/Southland	10	15	15

2 Otago and Southland Polytechnics are jointly offering a  
programme.

3 Midwifery courses build on nursing registration enabling  
the provision of comprehensive nursing care during childbirth.

4 Advanced Diploma in Nursing programmes leading to  
midwifery registration will continue at Waikato and  
Christchurch Polytechnics.