

MINUTES:DOMICILIARY MIDWIVES SOCIETY (INC)DATE: May 4th, 1984VENUE: Pat Fuller's house, 66a Nortons Road, Christchurch 4.APOLOGIES: Gillian McNicoll.PRESENT: Ursula Hellem, Pat Fuller, Chris Voaden, Bronwen Pelvin, Ngaire Witte, Carolyn Young, Joan Donley.

The outgoing secretary's report and resignation was accepted as was the financial report. Bronwen Pelvin has accepted the position of secretary/treasurer.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

-letter from Clare Hutchinson, Hamilton outlining her experience in setting up as D.M. and relationships with both Waikato Women's Hospital and the local Health Department. She includes statistics and comments that will be included in the first D.M.'s "round robin".

-letter from Barbara McFarlane (copy) to Parliamentary Commissioner for Investigations to comment on why the (then) Minister of Health was not granting the agreed 17% increase in fees and the effect the amendments to the Nurses' Act were likely to have on domiciliary midwifery practice.

-letter from the office of the Ombudsman informing us of an investigation into a complaint from us that the case load basis payment makes it difficult for a D.M. to make a reasonable income. This is continuing.

-Financial Report. Year ending May 5th, 1984.

Income:	membership fees:	\$165.13
	Bank interest:	\$ 8.48

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\$173.61

Costs:	postage	\$ 20.05
	stationary	\$ 1.31
	photocopying	\$ 18.20
	sundries	\$ 8.30

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\$ 47.86

8.5.83 Bank Balance: \$219.18

5.5.84 Bank Balance: \$344.53

NEW BUSINESS:

-Gillian's suggestion of an honorarium for the secretary as well as waiving the membership fee to the Society was agreed to by all present.

-Carolyn outlined the situation in her Health Department area where her claims are not being processed until the birth of the baby has been registered. It was stressed by all D.M.s present that there is no relationship between birth registrations and processing our claims for payment and that this sort of behaviour is obstructionist and not to be tolerated. Carolyn will approach the principal P.H. nurse in her area with a covering letter and hopefully straighten the matter out.

-Ursula pointed out that any claims submitted after 12 months are liable to be penalised by 10%.

-any midwife who is practising on her own responsibility is reminded of the obligation to be familiar with the Obstetric Regulations.

A copy of these and the blue folder, Obstetric Regulations 1975 and Information should be provided to each D.M. in practice by the Health Department. All of us must be aware of the necessity of keeping full and accurate case notes and to have a working knowledge of the regulations so that if any situation arises in which an investigation into our practice arises, we are fully covered by well documented working practices. All forms for keeping case histories etc on ~~file~~<sup>are</sup> available from the department so ensure you have a supply.

-in discussion, it became apparent that the Health Department has no set policy in the supervising of D.M.s and there are marked differences from health area to area. This is something to bring up with the Minister at some point in the future.

-Supplementary Hardship Benefit from Social Welfare Department. Those D.M.s who are in hardship should apply to S.W.D. for the hardship benefit. As well as assisting our pitiful income, it keeps our plight in the bureaucratic forefront.

-antenatal visits: Chris expressed frustration at not being able to claim for A/N visits above and beyond the one paid for. Most present felt okay about Chris charging for A/N visits but suggested laundering the money through the local H.B. Association. Chris will seek a legal opinion in Nelson re payment. We discussed the different styles of A/N visiting due to different pressures in different areas. Joan outlined that some D.M.s have employment as G.P.'s practice nurses.

-we can claim any unpaid mileage on our tax returns.

-car accidents: all of us should take out insurance that enables us to hire or rent a vehicle if ours is damaged.

The meeting closed around 9.30pm.

To the incoming secretary/treasurer:

- complete the inclosed form for continuation of bank account with authority for new signatures.
- Notify Westpac new address for sending bank statements.
- forward to Assistant Registrar of Incorporated Societies the prepared financial statement as per pg. 6 Part 11 of Requirements ~~for~~ after Incorporation.(It's very helpful to read through both these booklets.
- if you run out of letterhead stationary Lyn McLean (previous secretary) had friends run the current lot off for us.
- There is no common seal for the society as mentioned in Para 7 of the Society's rules.
- I have inadvertently lost some of the bank statements (No. 25 and ~~34~~) copies can be obtained ~~from~~ from the bank if needed.
- I have not been collecting relevant news clippings over the last year.
- list of midwives' addresses on loose piece of paper tucked inside membership book. Good idea to update it at meeting.

The Domicillary Midwives Society(Inc.) Financial Report for year  
ended 5th May 1984.

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Balance as of 5th May 1984 \$344.53.

Prepared by Gillian McNicoll  
(Secretary Treasurer 1983-84)

*G. McNicoll*