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## REPORT 1982 HOME BIRTH CONFERENCE

Since the conference there have been many concise reports of what occurred during the two days of official meetings.

I will just for the record briefly mention some events that took place.

Reports were made by existing Home Birth Groups scattered throughout New Zealand. These showed up the different problems still being confronted but also showed the spread of interest & determination in keeping the option for Home Births open in New Zealand.

The 2 Key speakers of the first day, Dr Victor McGeorge & Jules Older, approached in different ways the needs of the family unit of closeness & touch even before the birth of the baby. If this is interfered with there can be a long period of time repairing the damage done. All of course supporting our feelings that by having a home birth the environment is more conducive to closeness & ease of touching.

In the evening Mr. Butler the M.P. for St Kilda gave me a better feeling about the political approach to having Home Births, & helped to give the message that to be assertive is not the same as being aggressive. He gave us positive ideas to work on in the Politics of Childbirth.

In the workshop area there were varied results. For some it was a good

opportunity to air some grievances while in others some positive decisions were made & for others questions that had been unanswered were finally answered.

As always Joan gave an interesting & informative talk on the state of opposition to ~~Home Birth~~ Birth. We are fortunate to have such an articulate lady in our midst.

We had a session on "Where to ~~Next~~ from Here" in which I took part. As one who became aware of Home Births in 1974 I am very pleased to see where we are now. I feel that my original aim has been achieved - that is, to allow enough people to experience home births who will show that to have a baby at home is beneficial & desirable. I can see that there is work to be done to make sure that choice is not removed in NZ. From the conference representation it would seem that there are enough competent people in our membership to see that this aim is achieved.

As was mentioned in other reports the number at the annual general meeting was disappointing & the time slot needs to be changed to ensure that attendance & contribution is at a peak.

Dunedin Home Birth Groups are to be commended on their excellent organization & contribution to the Conference.

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Thank you for allowing me to be your  
representative at the 1982 New Zealand  
Homebirth Conference in Dunedin.

Moola of Helen.