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**TELEVISION
NEW ZEALAND**

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Monday 17 August 1981

Ms Lyn McLean
Secretary Domiciliary Midwives Society
57 Queens Drive
Lyllall Bay
WELLINGTON

Dear Ms McLean,

Thankyou for your letter of 12 August regarding the "Science Express" item on PKU testing for hypothyroidism. We have had a number of calls and letters regarding the impression that home births did not have the test done.

As a result of the concern felt by many about this subject we will be making a statement of clarification in a future programme. Because of the nature of our recording schedule it will not be possible to include this until the programme scheduled to screen on September 22.

Thankyou for your concern and I can assure you that the impression left by the programme was not intended.

Yours faithfully,

(Denis Harvey)
Producer
"Science Express"
TVNZ CHRISTCHURCH

57 Queens Drive,
Lyall Bay,
WELLINGTON.

12 August, 1981.

The Producer,
"Science Express",
Television New Zealand,
CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Mr Harvey,

On your programme "Science Express", Tuesday 11 August, Dr Lyon strongly implied that all babies born at home are disadvantaged in that they do not receive the routine blood test that hospital-born babies have done in the first week of life. This assumption is totally incorrect.

All babies who are under the care of a registered domiciliary midwife, have the blood test done to which Dr Lyon was referring. It is possible that Dr Lyon was referring to unplanned and/or unattended home births, but as this distinction was not made, I think it would be appropriate to correct this error and make a public apology on a future programme to all the alarmed parents planning home birth, to the domiciliary midwives, and to the New Zealand Home Birth Assn.(Inc.).

Yours faithfully,

Lyn McLean,



Secretary,

Domiciliary Midwives Society.

57 Queens Drive,
Lyall Bay,
WELLINGTON.

12 August, 1981.

The Editor,
Listener,
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

"Science Express", a programme supposedly dealing in facts, distorted the facts in the August 11th programme, regarding the discussion on hypothyroidism in infants.

Dr Ian Lyon strongly implied that all babies born at home are disadvantaged in that they do not have the blood test done that all hospital-born babies receive routinely in the first week of life. This assumption is totally incorrect.

All babies born at home, who are under the care of a registered domiciliary midwife, have a blood sample taken in the first week, on which a number of tests are made, and to which Dr Lyon was referring.

The producer, Denis Harvey, would do well to ensure his future programmes are properly researched, and an apology to alarmed parents planning home birth, to domiciliary midwives, and to the New Zealand Home Birth Assn. (Inc.), would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,
Lyn McLean,
Wellington.
Secretary,
Domiciliary Midwives Society.