

Dear midwives,

My apologies for not being present at this meeting. Since I have been secretary/treasurer for one year after taking on this role "temporarily" I feel it would be appropriate to share some of my thoughts and observations during this time. This may facilitate this meeting and the running of the society.

First of all I would suggest a quick read through of the rules of the Society particularly the objects.

In view of what has been just read (the rules) I feel this last year has been our society as rather hollow. Also at the Domicillary Midwives' Society meeting 17th October, 1982 the members present ~~decided~~ decided that the "role of secretary is to carry out the wishes of the society as a whole and that it was preferable that the person acting as a secretary have no strong political leanings in any one direction". On several issues I wrote to members asking for their opinions and views. Response was often minimal or nil. I felt for me to proceed any further I would be voicing my opinions and not the society's (most noticeably this is in relationship to submissions on the Nurses' Amendment Bill).

Another problem albeit more minor has been the non-payment of some midwives of their fees. I have kept these people in touch anyways with the society.

Note that now the wage freeze has been lifted all midwives should be receiving their 17% wage increase! (See correspondence from Aussie Malcolm 1982-82) 1982-83

Perhaps our membership fee could be reviewed annually as our ~~costs~~ costs are minimal-suggest reducing it to \$5.00 for next year.

Also suggest an honorarium of about \$30.00 and a waiving of membership fee for all future secretary/treasurers to help cover incidental costs such as petrol, typing, pens.

Best of luck to all of you and I hope the meeting and conference are fruitful.

Regards

*Gillian
Merrill*