

20001-44-010

August 13.  
1984.

Riverside Community,  
R.O. 2,  
Upper Moutere,  
Nelson

To all practising domiciliary midwives:

Dear Everyone,

Jenny Johnston of Wellington and I met with Dr Phillips, Director of Division of Clinical Services and his staff on Friday, August 10th at the Department of Health Head Office to discuss the implementation of the 17% increase granted to our fees by Angus Malcolm.

We accepted that an across-the-board increase would be fairest as it would include increased payments to those D.Ms who do postpartum visiting only - we did point out that that was their own choice and the D.M.S. was the group doing the negotiating!

We also discussed at length restructuring the fee schedule to include more antenatal visits etc - Dr Phillips saw no reason why the 17% increase and changing the schedule of visits couldn't happen at the same time.

So. We accepted on your behalf the following:

3 antenatal visits @ \$5.00	\$15.00
labour and delivery	\$50.00
12 postpartum visits @ \$8.50 over 14 days with 1st 2 visits with 24 hours of the birth.	\$102.00

TOTAL \$167.00

This increase dates from July 1st. It was outlined to us that we need to make further representations to the new Minister of Health, before any further increases can be made.

When I return from Australia, I will start to petition Michael Bassett. The whole fee situation has to be outlined from the beginning again.

Jenny and I worked out what we felt was a reasonable scale to ask for keeping in mind we should ask for more than we expect to get.

3 antenatal visits @ \$10.00	\$ 30.00
labour & delivery	\$ 80.00
12 postnatal visits @ \$10.00 over 14 days	\$ 120.00

TOTAL 230.00

Using Lynne's method to work out a yearly wage (230/birth x 6/month x 11½ months) this comes to \$15,870 per annum.

Jenny and I felt it was simpler to just multiply it by 60 births/year which came to \$13,800 per annum.

Are we asking for enough? Can people work out whether what they would get on this scale per annum is a reasonable amount.

I would really like to have your comments before Sept. 10th so that I can start making representations as soon as I get back.

Sincerely  
Bronwen