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REPORT ON DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY IN THE KAPITI AREA

I commenced work as a Domiciliary Midwife in October 1986, coming from a full-time position as night midwife at Paraparaumu Maternity Hospital and prior to that, Wellington Women's, so I am looking back on 1987 as my first complete year. During this time, I was in full-time practice, sharing an equal half of home birth bookings throughout the Wellington region with either Jenny or Barbara. This took its toll in time, energy and mileage, as it meant I worked an area 100km (return) each side of home base in Raumati South, however, it has given an invaluable baseline for assessment of demand and supply of home birth in my target area; Porirua to Levin.

My practice in 1988 continues in this way, although with a reduced intake of Wellington/Hutt Valley bookings; about $\frac{1}{4}$ with Jenny covering $\frac{3}{4}$, in an effort to reduce driving stress. Involvement with the Wellington region as a whole is so worthwhile at present from point of view of contacts made and relationships developed; income that would otherwise be non-existent; and above all, the wealth of midwifery experience gained. Also, while there remains only one midwife living in Wellington, it is essential that her workload is shared. This is open to change if another midwife should join us.

Looking back provides an introductory assessment of the potential for Domiciliary Midwifery practice on the Kapiti Coast. My statistics for the period October 1986 - December 1987 provide some interesting information:-

Total Workload: 76 claims received
17 were shared care/odd visits with Jenny or Barbara
59 Full Personal Bookings
Of these: 26 Wellington/Hutt (full home births)
35 Porirua - Levin total bookings
Of these; 25 Booked for a Home Birth
12 Had a Home Birth
13 Had a change of plan - 8 for med/obst reasons (3 transferred in labour)
- 5 for political reasons
The other: 10 Had early discharges - 7 Planned
- 3 Unplanned

Looking forward means developing that potential, as it is obviously possible to practice within a more practical defined geographical area, preferably Porirua to Levin. This provides the aims for 1988 which are:-

- To improve the Home Birth option for those who still have to compromise with a Planned Early Discharge for political reasons.
- To increase the Home Birth workload and decrease the PED workload.
- To continue to assist, encourage, and strengthen the Kapiti Home Birth Association group (this has been a large part of my background work to date).
- To maintain a sensible income without overloading.
- To continue assessment of Domiciliary Midwifery practice for this area by experimentation and examination of all choices and options and by keeping up to date with political change.

In the meantime, I see two permanent aims as the main strength behind this practice, and those are to never sever the connection between the trunk of our tree, the Wellington Home Birth Association, to whom I owe a very special vote of thanks, and to never turn down an opportunity to learn something new!

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