

2a Rarapa Crescent,

Kelburn.

11 January, 1981.

Dr. Mr. G. R. Laurenson,
Director of Medical Services,
Wellington Hospital.

Dear Mr. Laurenson,

On Monday, 9th January I followed up the invitation to see some rooms at Wellington Women's Hospital with a view to using them as an in-hospital birth and education centre, for Birth and Beyond Incorporated.

Miss Motley and Miss Lawton showed me a 4 roomed isolation unit (the unit on the 9th floor is the possibility ~~they~~ in mind), and examination room with adjacent office on the delivery floor and two rooms in the basement which are adjacent to the conference room there. The use of the isolation unit would be subject to Wellington Women's Hospital having the use of the floor which is not yet commissioned.

Other members of Birth and Beyond Incorporated are also familiar with the above rooms.

It is our belief that these facilities are not suitable to fulfil the objectives and create the 'special character' intended by our society.

Apart from the facilities there are the following reasons for our society ~~to~~ being committed to an out-of-hospital Birth Centre:

1. We would be ~~more likely~~ able to create a family home-like environment ^{more} ^{easi}
2. We wish to cost this Centre carefully and this would be very difficult with an existing ⁺ institution.
3. We wish to provide a service for those women who do not wish to go to hospital and for whom home birth is also not acceptable or possible.
4. Overseas experience has shown that it is difficult to avoid the biases of

hospital staff when a different approach is taken to birth.

5, We believe that education resources for ante and post natal support programmes would be considerably expanded if a house outside the hospital setting were made available for the use of consumers and interested parent educators.

6. We have studied carefully ^{the} overseas data relating to out-of-hospital birth centres and comparative studies of hospital and home birth, and we are completely satisfied that a Centre such as we propose establishing would provide a safe alternative for low risk mothers.

Thank you for arranging the meeting on 23 December. Birth and Beyond Inc. will continue to negotiate with the Hospital Board to lease a property outside the hospital and we hope that an ongoing dialogue with the Wellington Women's Hospital and an out-of-hospital birth Centre would prove to be fruitful for both parties.

Yours sincerely,

Ros. Capper (I use no title).

Copy to Miss Motley.