

67 Montreal Grove
Kingston
Wellington

13 January 1981

The Chief Executive
Wellington Hospital Board
Dalmuir House
114 The Terrace
WELLINGTON

Attention : Mr R J Perkins

Dear Sir,

Further to our telephone conversation, Birth and Beyond Incorporated contacted Mr Dykstra who arranged for members of our society to see a property at 38 Owens Street, Newtown. We think this property would be very suitable for our purposes.

Members of Birth and Beyond Incorporated also met with representatives from Wellington Hospital to discuss the proposed birth centre on 23 December. They were invited to consider developing a birth centre within Wellington Women's Hospital and to inspect facilities there.

On 9 January Miss Motley and Miss Lawton showed a member of our society a four-roomed isolation unit (the unit on the 9th floor is the possibility in mind), an examination room with adjacent office on the delivery floor and two rooms in the basement which are adjacent to the conference room there.

Other members of Birth and Beyond Incorporated are familiar with these 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 being committed to an out-of-hospital Birth Centre :

1. We would be able to create a family home-like environment more easily.
2. We wish to cost the Centre carefully and this would be very difficult within 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 carefully studied 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 to establish would provide safe alternative for low risk mothers.

Birth and Beyond Incorporated is an independent organisation and we wish only to rent a property from the Wellington Hospital Board. Leasing a property will not obligate the Hospital Board to provide other services or facilities. If such a need should arise it would be a separate issue. The Board would therefore not be obligated to the Birth Centre in any way.

We are very satisfied with the premises at 38 Owens Street and would like to negotiate a lease as soon as possible.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Pamela Skelton