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POST 3/11/79

Home births views sought

THE maternity services committee wants to hear from people and groups interested in domiciliary midwifery.

The committee, of the Board of Health is to review domiciliary midwifery services as its next major project.

The committee's chairman, Dr R A Barker, deputy Director-General of Health, said "Some interested parties have heard of our intention to study this topic and we do have some submissions in hand already. We will be focusing on this subject as soon as we have completed our present project, neo-natal care."

Dr Barker told the "Post" that now the committee had looked at the institutional side of maternity services it felt it was appropriate to

look at the community side.

He said it would not only cover births in the home, but also support services such as the back up available to a mother discharged from hospital early.

He said the study was a part of the committee's main job which was to make recommendations to the Minister of Health (Mr Gair) to ensure a high standard and quality of maternity services.

Anyone wishing to make submissions should send them to the Maternity Services Committee, Department of Health Head Office, Box 5013, Wellington.

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