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Midwives sign contract

By Joelle Thomson

A new contract between the Otago Area Health Board and the Dunedin Domiciliary Midwives Collective has given the midwives rights to use hospital facilities and equipment previously unavailable to them.

The contract was approved at the beginning of September, midwives collective member Sally Pairman said yesterday.

Intravenous equipment, monitors and the availability of an anaesthetist were among the facilities the midwives were now able to use.

Some doctors might not have realised the new contract existed, but the midwives and good relationships with the doctors they did work with, she said.

The move had "really opened the door for midwives to have their own clients", and was probably the beginning of increased independence for midwives to practise without the supervision of doctors, Ms Pairman said.

Under present legislation doctors must be present at deliveries, but they are giving increased responsibility to midwives.

Wairarapa Times-Age, Thursday, March 8, 1990

Hospital names nurse-manager

By TINA-MARIE MORRISON

GREYTOWN Hospital's new nurse-manager has been appointed.

Maureen Parry, a midwife at Masterton Hospital, will take up her position on Monday.

Mrs Parry's position is a combination of the principal nurse and hospital administrator jobs.

Principal nurse Bill Graham has been made redundant and finishes this Friday, as does day supervisor Maureen Algie, whose position has been scrapped.

Former hospital administrator Henry Jansen retired last December.

The focus of Greytown Hospital is expected to be more community-based rather than a hospital-based service.

Mrs Parry has background experience in occupational health, community health, rehabilitation, care of the elderly, obstetrics, and emergency nursing.

She also has a diploma in nursing for maternal and infant care. She has also com-

pleted a degree in social sciences majoring in nursing.

For the past 2½ years, she has been working as a midwife at Masterton Hospital.

Wairarapa health services district manager, Dr Chris Davis, said Mrs Parry was excellent for the job.

He said the hospital would continue its community-based philosophy under her direction.

Mrs Parry said she was looking forward to taking up the new position.

She said she had mixed feelings about the position.

"I think the job is going to produce a lot of challenges."

About five years ago she was the district nurse for South Wairarapa and lived there about a year ago.

She said the South Wairarapa community were "very enthusiastic".



MRS PARRY ... has mixed feelings.

More choosing home births

PA

Wellington Overcrowded and uncomfortable hospitals could account for more and more women choosing to have their babies at home, the Home Birth Association says.

Last year, nationwide, 680 women had home births, nearly double the number five years ago.

Dr Wally Metcalfe, of Welling-

ton, said home birth was becoming a preferable option for many women as the ability of local hospitals to cope decreased through funding cuts.

"Home-birth figures for non-intervention births are very good, whereas in hospital morale is low and it is a less pleasant environment for giving birth," Dr Metcalfe said.

The Home Birth Association said its statistics showed mothers who delivered at home had a very low incidence of post-natal depression.

A Wellington midwife, Judy Skinner, said home birth had many benefits for the whole family.

This is Home Birth Week.

Labour day 89
Ch-Ch Star