

Midwives promoting their work

Southland 30.8.89

National Midwives' Day on Friday will see Southland midwives at several Invercargill supermarkets, distributing pamphlets and willing to answer questions on their work.

A midwife is a health professional able to give advice, supervision and care to women before, during and after pregnancy.

They can take responsibility for conducting deliveries and care for the newborn and infant.

"Midwives as practitioners in normal childbirth have much to offer women and can provide a quality service encompassing antenatal, birth and postnatal care," the Southland region chairman of the New Zealand College of Midwives, Margaret McDonald, of Winton, said yesterday.

Southland midwives needed the

support of the community to ensure a midwifery service which provided choices for women in childbirth, she said.

On Friday, midwives would be in the community to hear people's ideas on how, together, a flexible, creative, empowering and supportive service could be provided, Mrs McDonald said.

Changes to the Nurses Act to reinstate midwives as practitioners in their own right would pave the way for the effective reorganization of maternity services in this country.

The NZCOM believed it was es-

sential women directed these changes to achieve a service which met their needs, she said.

"Local midwives are excited about the growth in community-based health care happening in response to the restructuring of the health service," she said.

"Midwifery skills can be fully utilized in the community to provide a cost-effective, wide-ranging maternity service which meets the needs of women and their families," Mrs McDonald said.

Midwives will be at New World supermarkets in South City and Windsor, Woolworth's Waikiwi store and Pak 'N' Save about 1pm.

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Nursing tutor Mary Grant and her son, James, aged four and a-half months, helping to promote the work of midwives in Invercargill yesterday. It was National Midwives' Day, an opportunity for members of the public to learn about midwives' work. Proposed changes to the Nurses Act to reinstate midwives as practitioners in their own right would see the reorganization of maternity services in New Zealand.

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