

Introduction by Dunedin

Report by national branch secretary - Wellington.

Apologies for slowness of national newsletter

Discussion about election of new national secretary

Note sent to all branches that NZHBA does not endorse concept of lay midwifery  
NZHBA dissociates itself from waterbirths

Discussion about statistics. Cannot make valid statements about HB in NZ if only 55%  
of total sample reply. Vital to have 90-100% of total in statistical sample.

Noted that all homebirths that come under the auspices of the NZHBA should be  
added into the sample for stats.

Noted that Bill *Vant* in Hamilton is still happy to continue doing annual  
stats (for which we are eternally grateful).

Christchurch arrived into the discussion at this point and some time was spent in  
bringing her up to date.

Discussion about the need for statistics.

Nelson suggested may not need.

Auckland pointed up absolute necessity for statistical information. Christchurch  
midwife not sent her stats in, among others. Suggested that we encourage and  
assist midwives to get them in.

Suggested that parents and HBA branches take responsibility for stats to be sent in.  
Plus the doctor-only births in centres without midwives.

Suggested that records could be sent in 3-monthly.

Discussion about the cost of telephone conference.

Suggested that cost to be less for the smaller branches.

Discussion about communication.

Noted that some branches felt national communication network had broken down some-  
what.

Christchurch had received no information on Homebirth Week.

Northland commented on the importance of good communication

Manawatu had not received national newsletter since December '81. Wellington to  
correct.

(A problem occurred about here with a baby on the line - some of the latter part was  
lost by the minutes secretary !)

National spokesperson wanted own copy of newsletter.

Point made that local people do own speaking on local issues.

AGM 7th and 8th May.

Auckland to send out tentative structure of AGM early to all branches so that people can send back their comments, criticisms and suggestions. Billetting and Epic fares discussed. Auckland to look into VIP fares, 10% conference discounts etc.

Auck. suggested that this AGM be kept an "in-house" gathering where as many reps from branches come, at least one from each branch, in order to fully discuss policy and goals and methods for the whole HBA in the coming year.

Noted that if the Minister decides to tighten up regulations thus inhibiting home birth does not require parliamentary intervention. Need submissions from all branches to their local MP's.

Christchurch asked that an information sheet could be sent to all branches in order to keep them up with the latest information.  
Hamilton asked that a sample letter could be drafted and sent to all branches.  
National Lobbying Co-ordinator to do this.

Discussion about further meetings/telephone conferences.

Since AGM in May, perhaps telephone conf. in February? General agreement. Couldn't hear Tauranga. One or two dissenters.

Brief mention of fatalities.

Suggested discussion of these and other vital issues be left to AGM.

Something about \$10 to national branch but secretary (new to the job and hopeless at it) couldn't catch this.

Conclusion in confusion.

The acting-secretary apologises for what might appear to be a set of lopsided minutes and will never try to do this again.

P.S. Enclosed you will find the first set of stats from the long-term study being done. These are not the final stats, nor is the explanatory sheet the final, but we obviously cannot wait any longer to get the facts out. My further apologies for being so long with this but they have taken much more time than we all expected. We wish to very gratefully thank all those midwives who gave us their precious data. See you all in Auckland in May for a proper unconstrained discussion.

*Deryn*  
Deryn Cooper - Auckland