

HOME BIRTH ASSOC. RESEARCH GROUP MEETING APRIL 27th.

Present: Di Nash; Mary Hammonds; Brenda Hinton, Alan Wyllie;
Barbara Lodge; Hazel Walton

The group met as a result of the Auckland committee's decision to become directly involved in research that would promote the Home Birth option and the aims and objectives of the Association.

This first meeting provided an opportunity for general discussion and proved valuable in beginning to develop a research strategy.

A comparative study had been proposed however it was agreed that matching the variables between hospital and home births was difficult and may not stand up statistically. It was noted that matched studies had been undertaken (California '76) but this type of research was costly and could be of little value especially if shown to be statistically unsound.

It was agreed that Safety was the main issue raised by professionals and the media against supporting Home Birth. Data from our own groups and internationally needs presenting to relevant bodies in a form that is acceptable. (We believe sufficient data exists to confirm the safety of Home Birth). If it is confirmed that NZ Public Health figures are available to us, it is suggested that funds should be raised to pay for a research person of appropriate qualifications and experience to prepare a document on Safety and Home Birth.

It was suggested that a subjective study may be more appropriate where consumer reaction could be qualitatively analysed giving more detailed information on birth issues and the 'hows' and 'whys' of consumer selection.

It was noted that the current hospital policy of early discharge has not been researched and that quality of service and the immediate post partum experience of these births would be of interest viewed along side the Home Birth experience.

It was proposed that the study undertaken should be used to promote a quality birth experience as part of an educational movement relating to basic family care. ie. What are the elements required for successful birth and post-partum experiences as those enjoyed generally by Home Birth families.

P.T.O

Such health promotion activities could be channelled through community health centres etc. with a booklet for consumers.

It is unlikely that any such project undertaken could be realised in less than two years.

It was agreed to meet again with a view to refining our thinking in relation to project structure, personnel requirements, likely costs and potential funding opportunities.

NEXT MEETING Wednesday 14th June at :- 8, Scarborough Terrace
Parnell Tel 34639

Barbara Lodge Tel 451 447