

# The New Zealand Home Birth Association

Wellington Branch  
Box 11-412  
Wellington

Monday 15th October 1979

Dear Committee,

Our committee held a meeting on Saturday 13th October for the purpose of making constructive suggestions about the conference and to make arrangements to deal with the practical details of catering, billets, registration etc. We found there were several basic points on which we wish to make recommendations and several questions we need answered before we can proceed very far with practical preparation.

1. We would recommend that the conference begin Friday evening, continue through Saturday and wind up Sunday lunchtime or afternoon. We feel three full days is too long a period. If your plan of a full three days is to fit in workshop discussions we suggest that there be concurrent sessions Saturday morning, and Sunday afternoon if there are sufficient topics.

## 2. FINANCE

- a) Presumably a registration fee will be charged to cover hall and catering. How much? We estimate \$5.00 per head.
- b) We recommend a door fee of \$1.00 each for members of the public.

## 3. HALL

A tentative booking has been made for a church hall in Ngaio for Friday and Saturday including the evenings. There is a large hall, a big L shaped room and kitchen. It is not available at all on Sunday. The total cost would be a "donation" of \$50.00. We can either find an alternative for Sunday, (and are still looking for a venue for the entire period) or if you accept our suggestion of having the policy forming meeting on Sunday morning with branch committee representatives only, that could be held in someone's home.

## 4. CATERING

Our committee feels able to undertake to provide two meals at just under \$1.00 per head each meal, included in the registration fee. It could either be Saturday and Sunday lunch or Saturday lunch and Saturday dinner. We intend doing the catering ourselves and have information on quantities, costs etc from a recently held La Leche seminar. Our members will provide bring-a-plate suppers on Friday and Saturday evenings and we think tea/coffee and biscuits would be adequate for morning and afternoon breaks.

## 5. PANEL DISCUSSION

We suggest a panel discussion on Saturday afternoon. We think it is important to have a major topic ("Safety"?) with well thought out questions covering many of the issues in the home birth debate. Obviously this would need a strong and articulate chairperson. Suggestions? We consider the following people would form an interesting panel:

Dr Carol Shand and Joan Donley v Sister Costello and Dr Peter Dukes. Sister Costello is a midwife at St Helens and has spoken at Parent Centre meetings etc.

Dr Carol Shand is one of the most active 'home birth doctors' in Wellington and Dr Peter Dukes is an O & G Consultant. We will make arrangements with the Wellington people when you let us know whether you agree with the idea and the time we propose.

We envisage the conference being open to the public Saturday afternoon and consider Marilyn Waring should be the early afternoon speaker, and that the panel discussion should follow.

#### 6. CHAIRPERSON and SPOKESPERSON

We think you have members who are more experienced in this field. It would be valuable to have one particular person to speak for the conference to the media. We would like there to be some policy co-ordination prior to the conference so the views given to the media before the national policy formation meeting are representative of the branches. We will discuss this with your representatives who will be in Wellington within the next two weeks.

#### 7. SOCIAL

We plan to hold a social on Saturday evening. We could arrange a buffet dinner, wine and supper. It would be interesting to have a film during the evening. We would like to know whether Auckland branch has seen "Five Births" or "The Amazing New Born". We will need to apply for the film very soon so please let us know if you would like either of these. If you've seen them both, any other ideas?

#### 8. CRECHE

How many mobile children are coming? This will help us decide whether we need a creche.

#### 9. BILLETING

How many people from Auckland and other branches need accomodation? Please send a breakdown of family numbers etc. as soon as possible so we can organize our members and let you know names and addresses etc.

#### 10. PROPOSED PLAN

Friday evening	Opening, group reports, supper
Saturday 9-11	Concurrent discussion groups
11-12	<del>Ruth Schett</del> <i>Jean Donley</i>
12-1	Lunch
1-2.30	Marilyn Waring
3-5	Panel discussion
7-	Social - dinner, film, supper.
Sunday 10-12	National policy formation (Reps from each committee)
<del>1-3</del>	<del>Continue workshop groups if necessary.</del>

As you see we are now throwing ourselves wholeheartedly into the conference but are very aware of there being only a few weeks to organize it. We would appreciate a detailed letter from you answering all our questions and suggestions very soon.

Regards,

*Jane McLeod.*

Jane McLeod  
Secretary.