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GREENWOOD MEDICAL CENTRE

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6th September, 1978.

Ms. Barbara MacFarlane,
Secretary,
The New Zealand Home Birth Association,
P.O.Box 7093, Wellesley Street,
AUCKLAND, 1.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter of 24th July for which I thank you.

As a G.P. doing approximately fifty deliveries a year, I read with interest the facts contained in your letter.

While I am very sympathetic to the aspirations of women who wish to have their babies at home, I personally feel that I cannot support home deliveries for the following reasons.

*3 times
Since Aug
1976

3. On several occasions following a completely normal pregnancy, I have been confronted, in the hospital situation, with an unexpected 'disaster' during a delivery, particularly in the third stage. In particular, massive post-partum haemorrhage has occurred on several occasions, in spite of the hastening of the third stage as is recommended practice. Until there is an effective back-up service to doctors doing home deliveries, such as is available in Britain, I feel that I could not do home deliveries in Auckland for this very reason, i.e. sudden drastic haemorrhage during or following delivery of the babe.

While I am very sympathetic to the needs of a woman during pregnancy and labour, and the desirability of labour and delivery in the woman's own natural environment, I feel the risks that are present for these women in home deliveries are not justified, and I prefer to operate in the hospital environment where all essential back-up services are immediately available. However, I would certainly support any move to make the hospital environment more homely, with inclusion of husband and any family members wishing to be present at the delivery, and in fact there are moves afoot in this direction already at National Women's Hospital for the future.

Having said all this I am still interested in the activities of your Association and would appreciate being kept in touch with any new material you may have to disseminate.

(contd.)

Greenwood Medical Centre.

(2)

Ms Barbara MacFarlane.

6th September, 1978.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. S. Carnachan', written in a cursive style.

J. S. Carnachan.