

EXTRAMURAL HOSPITAL

Phone 543-089
P.O. Box 5546,
Wellesley St.,
Auckland, 1.

HEADQUARTERS
2 GILLIES AVENUE, AUCKLAND 1, N.Z.

DEPARTMENT ... **MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT** ...

YOUR REFERENCE

IN YOUR
REPLY PLEASE
QUOTE

HQ45/307

Address reply to officer
whose official title
appears below signature.

18 December 1980.

Ms Barbara Macfarlane,
Secretary,
THE NEW ZEALAND HOME BIRTH ASSOCIATION,
P.O. Box 7093,
WELLESLEY STREET, AUCKLAND 1.

Dear Ms Macfarlane,

This acknowledges receipt of your letter of 14 December 1980 enquiring whether Extramural Hospital would provide Oxygen Cylinders for domiciliary midwives.

I also enquired from the Principal Nurse of the Central Auckland Health Department, who I understand has received a similar letter from you, and that she in turn has referred this to the Nursing Division of her Head Office, Health Department in Wellington.

As I understand it, Extramural Hospital has no current authority to provide a small cylinder of oxygen for the use of domiciliary midwives, but if it is to be pursued then I think various steps should be taken. It would be important I am sure to hear from the domiciliary midwives as to what they feel their professional needs are and, in considering that, they would need to give some indication as to how they propose to use the oxygen i.e. whether they would be administering it by nasal catheter, whether they would be using cribs or incubator-type equipment for enriched oxygen environment, and by what means they would propose to monitor any oxygen that is given, with assurance that safety for the baby was ensured at all times.

Once these issues were spelt out, then I think there would need to be some consultation with appropriate obstetricians and neonatal paediatricians to consider these issues.

Once the question of the use of oxygen by domiciliary midwives has been decided on, then ways and means of procuring oxygen and equipment for its administration can be considered secondarily.

Yours sincerely,



A.D. WARREN.
Medical Superintendent.

ADW/BC