

The New Zealand Home Birth Association

The New Zealand Home Birth Association,
P.O. Box 7093, Wellesley St., Auckland, 1.

Affiliated with NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for PARENTS and
PROFESSIONALS for SAFE ALTERNATIVE CHILDBIRTH, U.S.A.

The Executive Director,
Public Service Association,
Dingwall Building,
Queen Street, AUCKLAND 1

14th December 1980

Dear Sir or Madam,


At a recent meeting of our Association the parlous state of midwives incomes was raised. Recently they received a 42% rise, but given they do not receive general wage orders and their last increase was four years ago, they are financially in a worse position than they were then.

Domiciliary midwives are paid under contract to the Health Department. They are regulated by the Nurses Act and the Obstetrics Regulations.

We would like to know if your Association covers them and if so whether you will take some action on their behalf and advise us what steps we should take. The N.Z. Nurses Association has taken little or no action on behalf of domiciliary midwives who are members of that Association. The Government with repeated letters and requests granted the 12% increase but refuses to consider anything to give midwives relativity with midwives in similar positions of responsibility in hospitals. It makes it very difficult to recruit midwives and a number are going to leave purely because they can't pay rent and look after domestic matters on a full case load of 5 births per month which brings in \$7,000 p.a. In addition there is no provision for annual paid leave, weekends or night rates.

I hope that you can help us.

Yours sincerely,


Barbara Macfarlane,
Secretary.