

# 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,  
N.Z. Nurses Association,  
P.O. Box 2138,  
WELLINGTON 1

14th December 1980

Dear Madam,

At a recent meeting of our Association a number of domiciliary midwives wondered if the indemnity insurance your Association holds covers domiciliary midwives who are members of your Association. This first enquiry brings me into the second area I would like to raise.

As you know domiciliary midwives are paid by the Health Department and are employed on a contract basis. They recently received a 42% pay increase which on a full case load on about 5 deliveries a month brings them to the ground figure of \$7,000 p.a. The Minister of Health states that he will not consider a further increase. You will know that they do not receive general wage orders and are in fact, with inflation, worse off than they were four years ago when they received their last increase.

The new schedule is:	antenatal	-	\$4.25
	Labour	-	36.00
	Visiting	-	7.25
	Living in	-	24.50

I wrote to you in June 1979 asking what the Association could do for midwives who belonged to the Association. Your letter dated 14th June 1979 says that you are approaching the Minister on this matter. I have heard no more from you and would be interested to know his response and whether you will take further action on behalf of one group of members. The subscription to join your Association is found by some of the younger midwives with children and rents to meet, to be onerous. The additional fee to join the midwives group is also a burden.