



Telephone 749 199

**OPPOSITION WHIPS' OFFICE, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, WELLINGTON**

4 November 1980

Barbara Macfarlane  
Secretary  
The New Zealand Home Birth Assn  
PO Box 7093  
Wellesley Street  
AUCKLAND 1

Dear Barbara Macfarlane

Enclosed is a reply from the Minister of Health, Hon. George Gair MP.

This reply merely confirms the details that you sent to me in your further letter of 20 October 1980.

I agree with you that some further increase is required and, accordingly, I shall take this up again with the Minister.

As soon as I hear anything further, I shall contact you.

Yours sincerely

JONATHAN HUNT MP for New Lynn  
Senior Opposition Whip

Encl

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MR JONATHAN HUNT (New Lynn) to ask the Minister of Health:  
 In view of the fact that domiciliary midwives do not receive general wage orders, and that the 25 percent increase which medical practitioners received when the maternity benefits were increased on 1 June 1980 was not passed on to them, when can domiciliary midwives expect pay increases to bring them more into line with qualified midwives who work in hospitals?

REPLY:

HON GEORGE F GAIR (Minister of Health) answered:

There is not necessarily any correlation between fees paid to domiciliary midwives and the maternity benefit payable to medical practitioners or with salaries paid to midwives employed in public hospitals, although these factors may influence the level of the fees set.

It was appreciated, therefore, that as a result of the 25% increase in the maternity benefit payable from 1 July 1980, the fees payable to domiciliary midwives should be reviewed.

Accordingly, the Government approved a 42.5% increase effective from 1 October 1980 in respect of all patients delivered on or after that date. The new schedule of fees is -

Antenatal	\$ 4.25
Day or Days of Labour	\$36.00
Succeeding days:	
Living In	\$24.50
Visiting	\$ 7.25

**APPROVED**  
*George F Gair*

Reply prepared by ..... *Swan* .....  
 Contact Officer ..... *Kilohu* .....  
 Endorsed by ..... *JFH* .....

Bill Rowling, Leader of the Opposition:

"I am particularly interested in the very strong emphasis that has come through on health and equal opportunity for Maori women and children. I personally believe that one of the greatest challenges this country has got to come to grips with, is the growing inequality of opportunity and living standards between Maori and Polynesian New Zealanders and Pakeha New Zealanders. Time has almost run out on us in this regard. I assure you that the efforts of your Organisation in this regard will receive every consideration and support from the Labour Party."

Russell Marshall, MP, Shadow Minister of Education (Labour):

"Let me firstly comment on those areas which are related to my Shadow Portfolio. At the time when I have been the Labour Party Spokesperson or Shadow Minister of Education, we have increasingly been concerned that Maori language should be available to all children, particularly those for whom Maori is their own tongue. I can assure you that there will be a variety of steps taken to facilitate much greater access to learning of Maori language by Maori and other New Zealanders. I am frankly not altogether sure about the wisdom of suggesting that all teachers of Maori language be paid. The reason for saying that is that one of the proposals that we wish to explore is the use of local elders and local learning places such as the Marae. I envisage a fairly broad range of people being involved in the teaching of Maori language. For some of them, monetary payment may not necessarily be the most appropriate reward.

We would be very strongly of the same mind as you so far as resolution 7 is concerned, in opposing the dumping of nuclear waste and the testing of nuclear weapons. I can assure you of my own and my Party's strong commitment to these goals. We will continue, as soon as we are elected to Government, to fight this issue much more vigorously than has been the case for the last seven years. I take your point with reference to the independence of South Pacific peoples. I presume that you had particularly in mind the struggles of the people of New Caledonia. This again, would be entirely consistent with my own and my Party's point of view. The first three resolutions which deal with health matters are more correctly the role of my colleagues who work in this field. I know enough about deprovera to be very concerned about its availability, and I am pleased to see your conference taking the course which you have."

J.K. McLay, Minister of Justice:

"I have noted with interest the recommendations that were passed. I have drawn the information to the attention of the Advisory Committee on Women's Affairs and will certainly bear them in mind at the appropriate time."

Colin Moyle, MP for Hunua:

"The wideranging remits that you passed appear to be strongly in line with attitudes held and policies advocated by the Labour Party. I shall consult with my Parliamentary colleagues to ensure that your ideas are given every consideration."

Acknowledgements of letters with no comments passed upon the remits:

Chief Executive, Waikato Hospital Board.

Dr. F. Rutter, Auckland Hospital Board.



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

30 OCT 1980

The Secretary  
New Zealand Home Birth Association  
P O Box 7093  
Wellesley Street  
AUCKLAND

Dear Ms MacFarlane

Thank you for your letter of 10 October 1980, in which you express your concern about the remuneration of domiciliary midwives.

You will be pleased to know that I have recently approved a 42.5% increase in the fees payable to domiciliary midwives, which was effective from 1 October 1980 and applied to all services in respect of patients delivered on or after that date. The following new rates applied from that date:

Antenatal	\$ 4.25
Day of Days of Labour	\$36.00
Succeeding days:	
Living In	\$24.50
Visiting	\$ 7.25

The fees paid to domiciliary midwives are under frequent review; however, there are many competing demands for the limited resources available.

Yours sincerely

George F Gair  
Minister of Health