

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.

22nd October 1980

The Superintendent-in-chief,
Auckland Hospital Board,
Wellesley Street East,
AUCKLAND 1.

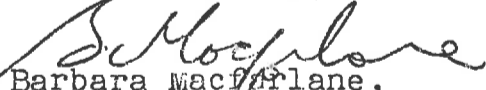
Dear Sir,

The Acting principal public health nurse has suggested after consultation with the medical officer of health, that I write directly to the Board with our request.

You may be aware that there are five or six domiciliary midwives in Auckland now and that they receive very low incomes, must provide their own vehicles and equipment. The Hospital Board kindly arranged some time ago for them to receive clean linen packs. We approached the public health nurses of Auckland and Waitemata with the suggestion that the Department or the hospital provide midwives with disposable equipment. The cost for items such as gloves is considerable when one takes into account that the payment for an antinatal visit is \$4.25 and for the actual delivery (irrespective of time) is \$36. With the very recent increase in fees they make on average \$140 a confinement and with it possible to carry out only four to six a month our midwives are earning only \$6,000 - \$7,000 p.a.

Would it be possible for the Board to provide disposable equipment to domiciliary midwives? This could include gloves, syringes, suture material and needles, barts solution, plasma and giving sets and oxygen. If there is any other information I can provide please contact me. I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,


Barbara Macfarlane,
Secretary.