

# 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 Hon Mr J. Hunt,  
Member of Parliament,  
Parliament Buildings,  
WELLINGTON

20th October 1980

Dear Mr Hunt,

I have some further information which may assist you on the question of domiciliary midwives pay. A 40% rise retrospective to 1st October was announced this week. This sounds to be significant at first reading, but this is the first rise since 1976 and has a trivial effect on their pay as the details set out below indicate.

Service	Since 1.10.80	Pre 1.10.80
Antinatal visit	\$4.25	\$3.25
Delivery	36.00	25.00
Post natal visits	7.25	5.00
Live in allowance	24.50	17.00

Previously they received \$98.00 per confinement and now \$141.75. Some labours last over thirty hours and four to five deliveries a month are the maximum that can be comfortably handled when one takes into account those over-due or early and the once daily visits for the fourteen days after delivery. Midwives can travel right across Auckland attending five different patients each day.

The Association feels that a further 60% increase is required and even then their incomes will in no way equal a charge sister in a hospital who has less responsibility and regular hours.

I hope I'm not boring you with all this but until we get adequate pay for domiciliary midwives we cannot expect women to see this as a professional job worth taking up.

Yours, *Barbara Macpherson*