

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 Gair,
Parliament Buildings,
WELLINGTON

20th October 1980

Dear Mr Gair,

Since I last wrote to you on 10th October the midwives have received informal advice that they have been given a 40% pay rise. This sounds quite significant until one takes into account the fact that this is their first rise since 1976 and that they do not receive general wage orders. I set out below the trivial effect this pay rise has on specific professional undertakings.

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 per confinement and now \$141.75. Some labours last over 30 hours and four to six deliveries is the maximum that midwives can undertake. One must take into account here that some women deliver either before or after term and that the daily post delivery visits take the midwives right across Auckland each day visiting mother and baby.

The Association feels that a further 60% rise is justifiable and necessary if midwives are to be attracted into the domiciliary area. The income, even with an additional 60%, in no way equals that of a charge sister in a hospital who carries far less responsibility and who has regular hours. Domiciliary midwifery is community medicine and it is inexpensive medicine for fantastic service.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Macfarlane
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