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# 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 G. Gair,  
Minister of Health & Welfare,  
Parliament Buildings,  
WELLINGTON

10th October 1980

Dear Mr Gair,

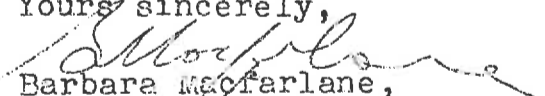
I think that our last letter to you on the subject of domiciliary midwives remuneration was on 2nd April 1979. As you will be aware, domiciliary midwives do not receive wage orders nor did they receive the 25% increase which medical practitioners got when medical benefits were increased this year.

This Association is appalled that nothing is being done to put domiciliary midwives on a par with at least charge sisters in hospital situations. Their incomes are in no way comparable with those of plunket nurses or health nurses who work within the community.

Saving money seems to be a necessary priority with hospital boards and Health Department and we suggest that increasing the income to domiciliary midwives and thus increasing the number of midwives able to work in this area, would reduce the obstetric part of the budget.

Figures quoted for the cost of hospital births vary but seem to cluster around \$1,000 while a midwife delivering alone receives \$98.00. Four deliveries a month and she receives a taxable income of \$4,700 and six a month and she receives \$7,056.

This is a deplorable situation and I would like an indication of why this anomalous situation is allowed to continue.

Yours sincerely,  
  
Barbara Macfarlane,  
Secretary.