

20073-22-054

Mrs P.C.Mason
36 Carlton Gore Rd
Grafton
Auckland
23.9.82

Mr Hutchinson
The Superintendent
National Womens Hospital
Claude Rd
Epsom

Dear Sir

On the 19th of September around 10.30-11.00 o'clock, I was admitted into the National Womens Hospital. Referred there by a Doctor Thompson, as my own Doctor, Doctor McGeorge had had a heart attack and was himself in hospital. I am seven months pregnant and had a small show of bleeding. Being quite concerned and thinking that I may have been going into a premature labour, I contacted Doctor Thompson. Who then referred me to the hospital.

I was treated under the Delivery Department with Team E on duty at the time. When asked if I was registered with the hospital, my answer being no, I intend to have a home birth, the reaction to my reply was very hostile. Especially from one particular woman, who was dealing with the administrative side of my case.

Under the circumstances, I found this somewhat of a shock, naturally, thinking I was going into an early labour. So instead of relieving my anxiety, this woman was increasing it. Making comments such as, "Whenever there are problems, you people always come in here."

This sort of treatment I am not prepared to accept on any level, considering that the hospital is there as a community service and from what I've heard, professes itself to be sympathetic to the Homebirth Association. I expect some sort of reply to this letter, outlining the hospital's policy on homebirth, and an explanation as to why its staff behaved in such a shocking manner.

yours sincerely



Mrs P.C.Mason

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Home Birth Association and the Maternity Services Committee.