

# 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 CHILD BIRTH, U.S.A.

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

18th September 1980

Dear Mr Hunt,

We have approached Mr Gair and the Board of Health Maternity Services Committee, the former repeatedly, about the remuneration received by domiciliary midwives. In the light of the details set out below I wonder if you would ask a question in the House seeking to discover the reason for the totally inadequate money they receive.

Domiciliary midwives do not receive general wage orders. They expected to receive the 25% increase which medical practitioners got when the maternity benefits were increased on 1st June 1980. However, this was not passed on to them and they have had no increase in many years.

I enclose a copy of a letter send to Mr Gair in April 1979 giving the financial position in some detail.

Qualified midwives in the hospital situation receive at least \$11,000 while our midwives are able to earn \$5-6,000. In addition they must provide their own vehicles and instruments and of course work all hours of day and night.

Your sympathy in the past has been appreciated .

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Macfarlane,  
Secretary.