

20073-22-094

Caveman Press

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Barbara Macfarlane
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Auckland

Dear Barbara,

Ingrid Johnson has kindly sent me a copy of your letter to her of 7th June. The main area of concern with "The Paper Midwife" is, as we expected is the problem of 'professional attendance' at Home Births. I am inclined towards agreeing with you however, as Ingrid says, professional assistance is not yet widely available however much she herself wishes it to be. Also although she supports the idea of proceeding with a home birth without professional assistance she makes it very very plain that to proceed without first making sure that the birth will be event-free and safe, would be foolish and hazardous.

I am pleased at your general support for the rest of the book and I must say that your opinion reflects the opinions I have had from overseas assessors and publishers in the last few months.

I am sure that you could give qualified support for the book, stating your disagreement with the "professional assistance". We accept and appreciate the criticism in that regard.

I wonder, too, in view of the public debate you describe in Auckland, in your letter, that your criticism of Ingrid's book could not be used in a positive way... to apply pressure to the "authorities" to make provision for professional attendance at home births. I am sure that Ingrid would join you publically in pressing for just this without compromising herself in terms of what she says in the book.

We have had some news from our associate publishers in Sydney. The Aust. Home Birth Association seemingly does not object to Ingrid's "non-professional attendance" attitude and have only a few other very small comments to make of little importance. Apart from those they are very happy with the book. This is to be confirmed in a letter I am expecting shortly.

I enclose, with pleasure, a copy of how the cover will look. We are hoping for publication some time between August and October - in other words, as soon as possible! Please feel free from this point on to make comment publically about the book / to the media, etc. As I said, we would accept, with pleasure, your qualified support for the book and, incidentally, copies are still on offer to members of your association pre-publication and at a discount.

Once again, many thanks,

Arohanui,

Trevor Reeves.
Publisher.