

109 Liverpool St.
Wanganui.
June 10th.

Dear Barbara,

Thankyou for your prompt response & return of my manuscript. At present my only typist (and husband!) is feverishly thumping out his own manuscript on Education as related to Art Galleries. So I will try & keep the handwriting legible.

Your warm, encouraging comments were most gratefully received, thankyou. The bits without a professional bit I fully anticipated would be a problem - it is a point we considered long & hard ourselves. I finally decided that until birth with a midwife is a much more widely available choice, I would continue to stick my neck out. Living in medically-uptight Wanganui probably has a lot to do with it - we are very far removed here from Homebirth Assn. attitudes, & people not only do not have the homebirth alternative, they are dreadfully belittled & humiliated in their searching around. I even suspect that the instinctive attitude doctors adopt towards these women even jeopardises the subsequent care they get

in a hospital confinement. (I work in the
Maternity Annex, & the attitude towards any
woman who is informed, a little more caring &
intelligent than the average mum, is hostile,
aggressive & most unhelpful.) I do not encourage
& support unattended births; from personal
experience I am well aware of the added
risk, responsibility & tensions that go with it.
Yet, having done it myself, & knowing of others
who have done & will do it, I choose not to
ignore the fact. I do not mean this to imply
that the Homebirth Assn. does ignore it; I
mean that as a semi-outsider I see it as a
reflection of negligence that ⁱⁿ this country which
permits legalized, midwife-attended homebirth,
it is an alternative available to very few people,
& many others are having to do it alone, &
settle for a potentially undignified, tampered-
with, bond-damaging hospital birth. If
tackled on the question of unattended births,
I do not propose to endorse it; I shall agree
merely that yes, it does happen; & try to
stress the necessary changes which will ensure
it no longer has to happen. If we manage
to get anywhere with this, I would then hope
to become an acceptable, supportive member of

the Homebush Association, ~ perhaps get another branch off the ground!

I have made out the changes I think necessary from your letter + your midwives' notes, ~ will send them immediately down to Trevor. He has already type-set the book, so I hope it is not too late for changes, as you pointed out one error + a couple of oversights that are important ~ will bother me greatly if not corrected. I appreciate your help very much, ~ regret it couldn't have come sooner. The Australian Homebush Assn. is also reading the manuscript + may suggest changes for their edition.

Trevor tells me to swallow my terror + expect to 'front the media' - something I've never done before. You may have some ideas on this. Although you can't support me publically, we are fighting for the same cause, ~ I want only to be supportive of the ground you've covered so far.

I enclose a note to Kevin Donovan. I wonder if you would get his address + forward it for me, as I have kept him waiting longer than I would have wished already.

We probably won't be using his photographs - we couldn't do them justice, as we are limited to black & white reproductions in order to keep the book at an affordable price. Trevor hasn't made his final decision, but we have now sent him some line-drawn illustrations & some diagrams done by an artist friend; along with what photos we have, he may consider it enough.

Thanks again for your co-operation.
I hope to hear from you again.

Yours,

Ingrid Johnson.