



Parliament House
Wellington.

20 May 1980

The Secretary,
The NZ Home Birth Assn.,
PO Box 7093,
Wellesley Street,
AUCKLAND 1.

Dear Ms Macfarlane,

With reference to my Secretary's letter of 27 March, 1980, and your request for a statement from the NZ Social Credit Political League on home and birth in general, please see below the League's views on this matter.

"In its Health Policy, Social Credit recognises the importance of allowing women having babies to have as many options available to them as possible. We already support the Le Boyer method of natural childbirth and acknowledge the contribution of the La Leche League.

"The only stipulation or reservation we would have is that whatever type of delivery the Mother chooses, the health and welfare of the child is the ultimate criteria in the decision made by all parties.

"We would like to congratulate the NZ Home Birth Association on the thoroughness and detail with which they have presented their case. Social Credit would be pleased to support a case for debating the issue in a public forum. It would be helpful to know how many women would prefer home birth to hospital delivery. Some preliminary investigation suggests it would be a minority and in most cases for 2nd and 3rd births rather than the 1st. In that case it may be difficult to sustain midwife services at maximum efficiency for a few cases spread out over a wide area."

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce Betham".

Bruce Betham
MP Rangitikei
Leader NZ SCPL