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OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

14 March 1980

Ms Barbara MacFarlane,  
Secretary,  
The New Zealand Home Birth  
Association,  
P.O. Box 7093,  
AUCKLAND.

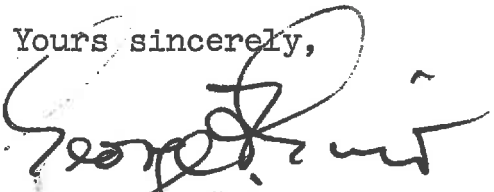
Dear Ms MacFarlane,

Thank you for your letter of 22 February 1980  
seeking comment from me on the Government's stance  
regarding home birth.

I doubt whether the Government could be said to  
have a stance on home birth any more than it has  
a stance on births in hospitals.

In the Health field, as in other fields, it is  
Government policy to promote freedom of choice  
of the care people receive consistent with  
appropriate standards and availability of resources.

You will be aware that the Maternity Services  
Committee of the Board of Health is currently  
reviewing the services available in the community  
to those women who elect to have their babies at  
home and for those who have recently been discharged  
from hospital. Following their deliberations they  
will be reporting to me on whether they consider  
there should be any changes in services available  
and on measures designed to improve the standard  
of these services.

Yours sincerely,  
  
George F. Gair  
Minister of Health