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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 CHILDBIRTH, U.S.A.

The Secretary,
N.O.W.,
P.O. Box 2946,
AUCKLAND

18th January 1980

Dear madam,

Our Association is very interested in your campaign Women in 81. We are particularly interested in the aspect of work for women and the march proposed. As you may know the demand for home births has increased far beyond the capability of the six domiciliary midwives in Auckland. The midwives are under contract to the Government and are paid a truly abysmal wage, are required to provide their own equipment, transport and materials. They of course do not receive general wage orders, statutory holidays, minimum rates of pay or over time. We are concerned for all women who work as contractors for the government. The Auckland Regional Secretary of the P.S.A. says that from their experience government departments can 'act atrociously towards contractors engaged on a fee for service basis...'.
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Another aspect of this is the role of the midwife and how it is being usurped in the hospital situation by doctors, teaching staff and specialists. The education of midwives reflects this trend and it seems just another area where women are being squeezed out of a profession where their record has been excellent.

Our Committee has regular meetings and we arrange seminars and workshops from time to time. Would you put our address in your diary and suggest that anyone wanting to contact us write to P.O. Box 7093 or phone Anne Ireland 502765 who can put women in touch with midwives, support groups or advise about functions.

Yours sincerely,
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