

20073-23-042

The New Zealand Home Birth Association

The New Zealand Home Birth Association,
P.O. Box 7993, Wellesley St., Auckland, 1.

Affiliated with NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for PARENTS and
PROFESSIONALS for SAFE ALTERNATIVE CHILDBIRTH, U.S.A.

Ms Lee Stewart,
NAPSAC,
P.O. Box 207,
Marble Hill, MO 68764,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

2nd August 1981

Dear Lee,

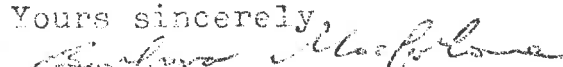
Thank you for sending information on affiliation with NAPSAC. The treasurer is arranging the money transfer now.

However, I would like to bring up an important matter. You may be aware of the U.K. House of Commons Second Report from the Social Services Committee Session 1979-80 on Perinatal and Neonatal mortality, Volume 1 1980.

At present a Maternity Services Committee of the Board of Health in New Zealand is investigating home birth etc here. We understand they have adopted the parts of the above Report which refer to home birth though the situation in N.Z. is totally different from that in the U.K. I enclose a xerox of p.26 and 27 of the Report and an article which deals with the place of death aspects of the Report.

I wonder if you have any information about this Report which we could use to discredit it. It gives no definition of 'home Birth' and from the very high figure we assume it includes unattended and unprepared home births. Our N.Z. figures for the last 1,000 home births attended by registered domiciliary midwife and usually general practitioner too, show a rate of three deaths per 1,000 births. Two of these had congenital defects that precluded life.

The N.Z. Committee I mention above is made up of anti home birth members and their bias is very clear. I would be interested in your comments.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Macfarlane