



20073-24-015

## NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S HEALTH NETWORK

12 Hayward Road, Papatoetoe.

6th November, 1982.

We have had further letters in response to our Women's Health Network National Conference remits.

Helen Clark, MP for Mount Albert:

"I find myself in agreement with all the resolutions. I enjoyed the session which I participated in on the Sunday morning. I was very impressed by the amount of energy evident in those who took part."

Peter Tapsell, MP Eastern Maori:

"In general, I must tell you that I will have no difficulty whatever in supporting the recommendations which you have sent me, with one proviso. That relates to item 2 ('that this conference gives extensive support to the home-birth movement').

While I think that the Home-Birth might have a place among the affluent with large homes and a lot of assistance and help, I do not really think it is a practical proposition for Maori people living in small homes with overcrowding and very often poor facilities and little in the way of assistance. In general I think that this would be a retrograde step and I believe that in the Health of the mothers and their children that they ought to be encouraged to use the facilities provided in major maternity units. I am, of course, fully aware that there are aspects of our maternity units which ought to be improved, but I think we ought to concentrate on that particular aspect rather than concentrating on a separate home-birth movement. I would like to thank you for sending me this information."

Mary Batchelor, MP for Avon.

"I have noted the points raised in the remits from your conference and will ensure that they are discussed with my women colleagues in the Labor Party at our next meeting."

Fran Wilde, MP for Wellington Central.

"Should you be publishing full proceedings of the conference, I would be pleased to receive a copy."

Acknowledgements of letters with no comments passed upon the remits:

David Lange, MP for Mangere and Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Bruce Beetham, MP for Rangitikei and Leader of the Social Credit Party.

Marilyn J. Waring, MP for Waipa.

R.H. Kerr, Chairperson, South Canterbury Hospital Board, Timaru.

*Handwritten notes in blue ink:*  
- A red star symbol.  
- "I find myself in agreement with all the resolutions."  
- "I do not really think it is a practical proposition for Maori people living in small homes with overcrowding and very often poor facilities and little in the way of assistance."  
- "I think that this would be a retrograde step and I believe that in the Health of the mothers and their children that they ought to be encouraged to use the facilities provided in major maternity units."  
- "I am, of course, fully aware that there are aspects of our maternity units which ought to be improved, but I think we ought to concentrate on that particular aspect rather than concentrating on a separate home-birth movement."