



## NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S HEALTH NETWORK

12 Hayward Road,  
Papatoetoe, Auckland

29th October, 1982

### Homebirth Assoc.

We held a National Conference on the 17, 18 and 19th September. The Conference was well attended by 750 women from all over New Zealand. The women attending came from a wide range of interests and occupations. Disabled and deaf women took an active part. We managed to attract a large number of home based women as well. We feel that we had a balanced and representative cross-section of New Zealand women.

The aim of the Conference was to educate, pass on skills, link up women with similar aims, to inform women of their rights within the medical system and to help women politicise and take a more active role in the decision making in existing health services and institutions and the planning for future health facilities.

There were over seventy workshop topics covering traditional medicine and alternative healing, mental health, violence against women, research on women and symposiums on creating change.

Our Guest Speaker was Norma Swenson from the National Women's Health Network, U.S.A. Ms Swenson is co-author of the highly respected women's self help health manual, "Our Bodies, Ourselves." The National Women's Health Network has linked with us to present submissions on the controversial drug, Depo Provera, to hearings of the F.D.A., as well as keeping us up to date on women's health issues on the International level.

We would like to draw your attention to the recommendations passed on the last day of Conference. These remits have the overwhelming support of the women who attended the Conference. We feel that it has become necessary to present the consumer point of view on matters relating to health, welfare and health education.

Sue Neal,  
Co-Organiser, National Conference,  
NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S HEALTH NETWORK