

The New Zealand Home Birth Association

The New Zealand Home Birth Association,
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Affiliated with NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for PARENTS and
PROFESSIONALS for SAFE ALTERNATIVE CHILDBIRTH, U.S.A.

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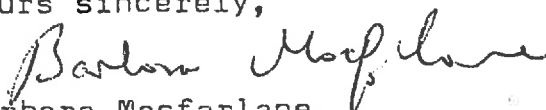
6th September 1982

Dear Beverley,

Thank you very much for your interesting letter and all the enclosures. We were thrilled with the material and I immediately sent off copies to the Government Advisory Committee on Womens Affairs, whom we have alerted to the nature of the Short Report. We have the support of all eight women M.P.'s in N.Z. but the Health Department who pay our domiciliary midwives are trying to starve them out with totally inadequate case load payments. From a high of nine midwives we have slipped to four in Auckland, directly related to inflation and their static wages. This is the result of hospital pressure to keep women in hospitals (specially base hospitals and to use all the technological equipment which they are acquiring) and pressure from obstetricians who without exception oppose home birth. This seems to be a result of peer pressure, influence of overseas reports (such as the Short) and a keen desire to move into the whole midwifery/obstetric area. Of course our falling birth rate influences this too.

I will send you a copy of our next newsletter which will give you an idea of the things we are involved in. We are in contact with ARMS as one N.Z.'er is training at Derby and is a member. We have joined Napsac to get the material they produce but in fact your material was far more apt. If you know of any midwives seeking to move here and who would like to work with dedicated midwives, a keen association and a highly political situation, let me know!

Yours sincerely,


Barbara Macfarlane,
Secretary.