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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.

Dr J. Phillips,
Director of Clinical Services,
Health Department,
WELLINGTON

6th September 1982

Dear Dr Phillips,

I understand that you are concerned that a suggestion in one of our Newsletters, that parents pay midwives to supplement their totally inadequate case load payments, has been implemented. I can assure you that this is not the case. Domiciliary midwives present at a meeting which discussed the Newsletter suggestion were opposed to the idea. They felt that in N.Z. maternity care was provided free by the government and that it should remain this way. The idea originated with members of the committee who are aware of how difficult it is for a midwife with children or mortgage responsibilities to make ends meet.

Some parents give their midwife a present much the way they give the doctor a gift of appreciation. From what I can gauge these are generally not of a monetary nature, which causes both parties embarrassment. Of course, pot plants, book tokens and hand knitted jumpers don't really assist them financially.

One comes to the conclusion that the current policy is to starve out the dedicated few.

Yours sincerely,



Barbara Macfarlane,
Sec.