

20073-24-038a

The New Zealand Home Birth Association

Wellington Branch
Box 11-412
Wellington

Barbara McFarlane,
Auckland HBA,

31st August, 1982,

Dear Barbara,

Thanks for your last letter with bits of news and the minutes of your last meeting. You all seem to be as active and on the ball as ever. We regret that you are experiencing such a drop in midwives.

You mentioned in the minutes about a letter to be drafted "allowing parents to accept responsibilities". Could you explain to us a bit more about this? It sounds important.

* You asked whether Joan's submissions about the NZNA's recommendations to the MSC report and the "1,000 plus statistics" should be distributed to all M.P.'s by you or by the national body. I feel personally that an important thing such as these statistics should be sent with a personal letter by the National Secretary, with due acknowledgement of the Auckland Branch's credit for compiling them. I feel it would give a greater impression of national solidarity. If you sent the material to Nicky Conroy, I am sure she will do the job promptly and would be grateful for the acknowledgement. I realise that the actual mechanics of sending the material to her first is a bit awkward, but I think it would be worth it.

* Joan's submissions cannot I feel be regarded as national HBA policy, as we haven't seen what she has written. I gather your branch would agree with all she says, but other branches may not. She should send those submissions to MPs separately from the statistics, and stating clearly who they are from, (ie. Auckland branch and Auckland Midwives, or all Domiciliary midwives, whichever is the case).

Our branch discussed lay midwifery at our last meeting and agree with you that we are in too vulnerable a position to officially support it.

We too are planning a one day seminar on home birth in publicity week.

We would be interested to hear you thoughts and feelings about the 'unplanned' water home birth attended by Isabelle Smith and Estelle Meyers. We only had the facts as presented by the media to judge the 'responsibility' of it, so would be interested to hear anything else about it. We feel that, given the knowledge we have about it, Isabelle should never have attended that birth at home.

Regards,

Hewitt