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The New Zealand Home Birth Association

The New Zealand Home Birth Association,
P.O. Box 7043, Wellerley St., Auckland, 1.

Affiliated with NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for PARENTS and
PROFESSIONALS for SAFE ALTERNATIVE CHILDBIRTH, U.S.A.

Ms D. Keay
Assistant Advisory Officer,
Advisory Committee on Women's Affairs,
State Services Commission, Private Bag,
WELLINGTON

17th August 1982

LIA/15/6

Dear Ms Keay,

Thank you for your letter.

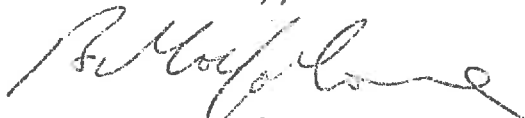
I enclose copies of two articles received this week from the U.K. which deal directly with the Short Report and the criticisms that can be made of it and an article on statistics by Dr Tew.

Our own investigation of 1,000 births is not yet completed. Our PEP worker, who holds a masters in psychology is currently supervising the punching of the data. Once the results emerge she will complete a paper for a medical journal and I will see that you receive a copy.

The article 'Planned Home Birth in Auckland' is very readable and informative. The author, Sian White, has practised midwifery in the U.K., Thailand and now in Auckland but has been forced recently to commit herself to working at a maternity hospital because of the totally inadequate pay that domiciliary midwives receive. We understand from Mr Malcolm that a 17% pay increase from 1st October 1982 has been approved, subject to the wage freeze but this is totally inadequate. Domiciliary midwives receive less than a third of what midwives in the hospital situation receive. We fear that the move towards lay midwives and do it your self births will continue, especially as experienced domiciliary midwives are finding the economic pressure too great.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Barbara Macfarlane,
Sec. Auckland Branch.