

20073-24-050 2.8.82
C.M. Thames Coromandel

Dear Home Birthers,

I wish to clarify a misunderstanding in a letter I wrote referring to a spiritual midwife. She is within legal limits, is a registered maternity nurse backed by her G.P. husband - information I thought you were already acquainted with. At least Joan Dorley is. I was perhaps a little foolish to think she should change this to the larger Auckland group, or groups. Considering our group is very small it is also very intimate in that sense and we all have immediate communication with one another on any aspect concerning the Home Birth issue.

I can well appreciate your concern at supporting midwifery practitioners. Let me assure you that is not the case. I was hoping to arouse your sympathy for us as a small beginning group in a very noisy anti H.B. area. i.e. There is evidence of support from local G.P.'s but the main bug bear is the obstetrician for the entire Coromandel/Horowhaki area, who is very anti - and who has gone so far as to circulate letters to local doctors warning them away from the H.B. idea.

You no doubt have heard of the poor midwife, who applied in our area, whose appointment was forgotten by the obstetrician and Principal Nurse of Thames Hospital. Our pro-H.B. Public Health Nurse has been warned not to have anything to do with the group. So that's our plight, and because our midwife, who is very capable and has a great track

record and is within the legal boundaries, is not a Regd. M.W., we are reluctant to put her under the scrutiny of such powerful people.

Anyhow the reason I wrote, if you recall, was to enquire about videos. With the H.B. week coming up I was planning some promotion.

I was offended with your reply but I understand your action. We can't take chances so I commended you on your thoroughness. Keep it up.

I think that was behind my own reluctance to give more information. The feeling that we have to tread carefully. The battle isn't over yet tho' our chances are looking better all the time.

Forget about the video for now. I think I'll get our secretary to handle all correspondence from now on since I'm obviously not as gifted a communicator as I'd thought.

Yours faithfully
D. J. [Signature]