



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEAD OFFICE

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18 May 1982

Mrs B Macfarlane
Secretary
New Zealand Home Birth Association
PO Box 7093
Wellesley Street
AUCKLAND 1

Dear Mrs Macfarlane

HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT RECORD

... Enclosed is a copy of the new child Health and Development Record will be launched by the Minister of Health on 1 June 1982. The publication of any material relating to the new book or release of any book is embargoed until 1 June 1982.

1 INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT RECORD BOOK

(1) Rationale of the Record Book

One of the most important aims of an effective child health service is to ensure continuous care of the child from the time of discharge from the care of maternity hospital or midwife. This will be facilitated if every newborn baby can have his own doctor, nurse, and personal health record arranged before going home from the maternity hospital.

(2) Who is entitled to the new record book?

The parents of every child born after 1 June 1982 will be entitled to a free copy of the Health and Development Record Book, to be issued to the mother before she leaves the maternity hospital, or by the midwife who attends the delivery.

(3) About the Record Book

The record book is the result of several years of collaborative effort by the Department of Health, Royal New Zealand Plunket Society and the Board of Health Committee on Child Health.

Every effort has been made to make this an attractive book based on the best available advice. It has been carefully field tested, with considerable modifications made in the light of this.

It will replace the present books used by the Plunket Society and the department. It is not however meant to replace other medical and nursing records.

The record book is for children up to the age of 16 years with special emphasis on the earlier years. It is colourfully illustrated and provides parents with information on children's health, behaviour problems, accident prevention and how to make best use of health services.

It is the department's hope that this record book will make it easier to co-ordinate the provision of health services. It should generate well informed consumer demand for timely preventive and curative health services from the parents to children.

2 DISTRIBUTION

Your assistance is sought to ensure the distribution of the Health and Development Record Book to domiciliary midwives, ready for issue to mothers from 1 June 1982.

It has been necessary to stipulate a commencement date for free issue of the record book. For this reason all babies born on or after 1 June 1982 are entitled to a free record book.

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

... Attached for your information is a copy of information sheets numbers 1 and 2.

Information sheet no 1 is being sent to all general practitioners.

Information sheet no 2 provides guidelines on the steps that should be taken in relation to the record book prior to the mothers discharge from the care of the maternity hospital. Page 2 suggests the steps that should be taken by the domiciliary midwife.

4 OBTAINING SUPPLIES OF THE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT RECORD

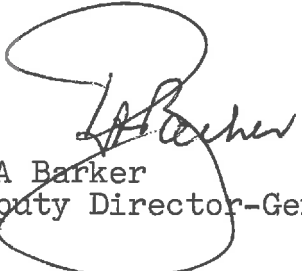
An initial supply of records books will be sent under separate cover for distribution to domiciliary midwives.

Additional copies of the two information sheets will also be sent. It should be noted that the record book is not to be issued to any mother until 1 June.

Further copies of the record book should be obtained by domiciliary midwives from the district health office.

We are grateful for your assistance in launching the record book and introducing it to mothers soon after the birth of their children.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. A. Barker". The signature is written in dark ink and is partially enclosed by a large, hand-drawn oval that also surrounds the typed name below it.

R A Barker
Deputy Director-General of Health