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15 March 1982

Mrs L.R. Whiteside,
46 Kenderdine Road,
PAPATOETOE.

Dear Mrs Whiteside,

Thank you for your interesting letter on the subject of home/hospital births.

I do not plan, at this stage, to require any follow-up programme to be made, but the situation could change if there are any fresh developments in the current debate.

I should also take the opportunity to correct you on one point in your letter. Professor Bonham did not state on the programme that homebirth midwives were unwilling to co-operate with hospital staff. In answer to a question about more co-operation he did say that his experience led him to believe that the home birth association would not be keen on adopting a team approach to home birth.

Much could be said and written about the rate of complications in home or hospital births in comparison with the other but I do not believe such figures would necessarily help the public to a better understanding of the issues involved.

Yours faithfully,


Terry Carter

Northern Editor - Current Affairs

CC HBA.