

20073-24-113

"Eye Witness" Programme
Television New Zealand
Private Bag
Auckland.

46 Kenderdine Road
Papakōwhiri
9 March 1982.

Dear Sir

re Homebirth programme of 5.3.82.

I believe that the Maternity Services are using scare tactics to frighten people away from homebirth through using emotive statements without supporting evidence.

On your programme of 5th March 1982 Professor Bouham said that homebirth midwives were unwilling to co-operate with hospital staff. As a homebirth mother who had to transfer to hospital I know this to be untrue and that hospitals are in fact hostile towards consumers who choose homebirth, and that hospital staff's unwillingness to accept and co-operate with homebirth midwives has already contributed towards the death of an infant. Professor Bouham also made reference to cases of undetected prematurity, twists etc in homebirth situations.

but neglected to mention the percentages for undetected "abnormalities" by Maternity Service staff and ultra-sound scanners. Neither the general public nor the Home Birth Association have ready access to hospital files to produce their own statistics or find out information for themselves.

In order to better enable the television viewing audience to decide the comparative safety of home and hospital births, I therefore challenge Professor Bouham to produce National Women's Hospital data for 1981/2 on the following:

- 1) cases of undetected prematurity
 - 2) cases of iatrogenic - prematurity
 - 3) induction rates and caesarean rates for each doctor
 - 4) Totals and percentages for inductions, caesarean sections, births using drugs, natural childbirths.
 - 5) Comparative Apgar scores for each type of birth.
 - 6) incidence of postpartum haemorrhage.
 - 7) incidence of iatrogenic - postpartum haemorrhage.
 - 8) perinatal complication rates for all types of birth.
- and I challenge the Home Birth Association to produce figures for the same period for the same matters.

This would surely provide an objective, factual

