

PRESS STATEMENT

*With my Compliments*  
**HELEN CLARK**  
 M.P. FOR MT. ALBERT

MARY BATCHELOR MP  
 CONVENER, LABOUR'S CAUCUS COMMITTEE  
 ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

19 March 1982

Labour women Members of Parliament are concerned about the Minister of Health's "opinionated and unsubstantiated" views on home births as "trendy". They feel that this is a sign that he will deliberately place obstacles in the way of women who may contemplate home, rather than hospital, as the place to give birth to a baby, according to Mary Batchelor, Convenor of Labour's Caucus Committee on Women's Issues.

"Planned home delivery with qualified midwives, and under the supervision of a doctor is for some women and their families a much preferred option. Choice is important. We are horrified that the Minister of Health apparently is letting personal and uninformed views cloud his judgement as a Minister of the Crown.

"Already two Labour women Members of Parliament, Ann Hercus and Helen Clark have received a considerable amount of correspondence from people greatly concerned with the Minister of Health's insensitivity on this issue.

"The women Members of Parliament are writing to Mr Malcolm asking him when the final report of the Maternity Services Committee will be released and what are Government's plans regarding the home birth option.

Any enquiries to Helen Clark, Ph. (AK) 688-055

Labour's Caucus Committee on Women's Issues

Mary Batchelor, MP for Avon  
 Whetu Tirikatene-Sullivan, MP for Southern Maori  
 Ann Hercus, MP for Lyttelton  
 Helen Clark, MP for Mt Albert  
 Margaret Shields, MP for Kapiti  
 Fran Wilde, MP for Wellington Central