

20073-27-030

AUCKLAND HOME BIRTH ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 7093 Wellesley Street Auckland



28 September 1985

Waikato Hospital Board
Chief Executive Office
P.O. Box 934
Marlborough Place
Hamilton

Dear Ms. Driscoll,

First of all, may I apologize for the belatedness of this reply to your letter dated 10 June 1985. However, we have had a few recent shifts by committee members and your letter became misplaced correspondence for a time.

In response to the questions with regard to the review of maternity services undertaken by the Waikato Hospital Board, I have enclosed a photocopy of our national newsletter July 1985 issue. You will find this includes statistical information relating to homebirth in New Zealand for 1984.

There is definitely an increasing number of women and parents opposing and questioning the existing 'high-tech', interventionist, obstetrical approaches to maternity care. This is evinced by:

- (i) increasing recognition of homebirth as a viable and safe alternative
- (ii) lobbying and support for the increase in salaries of domiciliary midwives (at least on par with hospital midwives)
- (iii) lobbying and support for increases in the GP maternity benefit
- (iv) lobbying against the closure of small GP based maternity hospitals (Level I) - in Auckland, the Auckland Hospital Board reversed a decision to close 4 small units in the surrounding district.

We hope that your attention has also been brought to a 1984 report entitled 'Regionalisation of Obstetric and Perinatal Care in New Zealand' by Dr. R. Rosenblatt and Dr. J. Reinken. A project supported by the Medical Research Council of N.Z. Hopefully this information will not be too late to be of some assistance to your review committee.

Sincerely,

Lillian Dunn

Lillian Dunn
Secretary HBA