



## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Government Building Lambton Quay

Private Bag Wellington New Zealand

In reply please quote  
39/16/6

18 December 1987

Telegrams: DEPED WELLINGTON

Telex: 31586

Telephone: 735 499

Nicholette Emerson  
Secretary  
Auckland Home Birth Association  
Box 7093  
AUCKLAND

Dear Nicholette Emerson

The Minister of Education has referred your letter of 25 October 1987 concerning the preparation of midwives to me for reply. I apologise for the delay in replying.

Decisions on the appropriate preparation of health professionals for the New Zealand health service fall within the portfolio of the Minister of Health.

You will be aware that a decision has recently been made that from 1989 midwifery education will be available separately from the Advanced Diploma in Nursing. This move will give prospective midwives another training option. Because courses will no longer be tied to the Advanced Diploma in Nursing, they could be available in more centres and provide greater accessibility for those who wish to undertake this course. The midwifery option will continue to be available in a limited number of Advanced Diploma in Nursing courses, and the Advanced Diploma will continue to be open to practising midwives who wish to seek further qualification.

The Minister of Education's role, as you will appreciate, is not to determine the most appropriate preparation for midwives, but to ensure, through this department, that suitable courses are established to provide opportunities for this group of nurses to gain the necessary knowledge and skill required to meet the needs of the health service.

In a joint press statement, the Ministers of Health, Education and Women's Affairs stated they hoped that the choice of options that will be available to potential midwives from 1989 would attract more applicants for training and consequently a greater number of graduating midwives.

I am sure that as a practising midwife you would support this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a long, sweeping underline.

Catherine Gibson  
Acting Director Continuing Education  
for Director-General of Education