

104 Seddon Street,
Naenae, Lower Hutt.
19/10/87.

Brenda Hinton,
Auckland Home Birth Association,
Box 7093,
Wellesley Street,
Auckland.

Dear Brenda,

Thanks for your letter of 5 August. I hope you got the copy of the revised stats I sent separately. As I mentioned I also sent a copy direct to Jenny Johnston in London and asked her to pass them on to Sian and Micky. Sorry to be quite so late with them but things have been chaotic round here lately.

I include another copy - I now have a printer with my computer so the quality of print has improved over our old typewriter. Could you pass these stats on to be published in the National Newsletter if they have room since the figures now cover all the birth forms I have for those years? Thanks.

I've given some thought to your suggestion about having statistics from midwives affiliated to a Home Birth Association. I don't see any problem with extracting figures for those people only, or comparing them to any others. If you are interested in any particular aspect of figures for these people I will be glad to get them out for you.

I would see a difficulty in trying to decide beforehand whether or not to enter them on computer. I get forms at regular intervals from midwives I do not immediately know - often identified only by initials and not even an address. Also the occasional doctor. In addition, I'm not to know at what stage people cease or become affiliated to groups. For that matter I rely heavily on the National Newsletter to keep me up to date with what Home Birth groups are currently viable round the country. But as I said before I can easily extract information for any people you wish (within confidentiality limits) so there's no real problem. I also think it pays to attempt to at least have a record of all home births on computer to get a good overall picture.

There is a practical point though. Considering that the vast bulk of births are performed by midwives supported by Associations, I suspect that the exclusion of a few would make very little difference to the overall figures. What would probably make more sense is to provide more detail of the differences between deliveries which were completed at home and hospital transfers. The new form has a lot of new information on it so I will keep this in mind for next year.

Anyway as I say if you want to look at anything specific let me know and

give me a list of relevant midwives and I can extract the figures for you.

Best wishes,

Stan Gillanders.

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