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Kawerau.

21 September, 87

I recently gave birth to my second child on 04-06-1987. Our local Maternity Annex has closed here in Kawerau so all pregnant women choose to give birth in either Whakatane or Rotorua hospitals.

I would have liked a home birth for this baby. My doctor stated that home births for Kawerau women are practically out of the question. Mainly because our nearest hospital is a good 25 mins away:- much to far if an emergency should arise. Also were unlikely to find a doctor who is willing to deliver babies at home.

One great thing though is Kawerau has a domiciliary Midwife, which goes in our favour for coming home from hospital sooner. She provides good care for Mum & Baby, also performs routine checks and the PKU test on baby.

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I was under the care of a Rotorua G.P. who allowed my labour and birth to progress naturally without interference. He offered helpful suggestions and I managed to have a natural, drug free, birth. Without the hassles of stirrups, episiotomy, induction<sup>forceps</sup> and all the rest of it like my first child's birth when I was under a Specialist.

I was able to come home within 24 hours after the birth of my baby mainly because I was going to have our domiciliary midwife visit us, everyday for a week.

Returning home so soon to my husband & daughter (both were present at the birth) was really great but I'm sure having the actual birth at home would be much better. I hope to give birth to our next child at home.

Would you please send information on our nearest homebirth Association.

Yours faithfully  
B. N. Harvey

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I was unable to give birth at home because Kawerau lacks the support of doctors who are willing to perform a home delivery. My Dr suggested ideally we should have an ambulance (at the birth) fully equipped on stand by. One thing in our favour is that at least we do have 1 domiciliary midwife.

B. N. Hawkey

PS: We have 6 Drs here in Kawerau.