

13 Anderson Rd
HamptonAuckland Home Birth
Association,
c/o Joan Donley,

In June, I read in your newsletter an article headed "Midwifery Centres" by Judy Harkin. It concerned a proposal to give women complete care by a midwife. I am pleased to see such a proposal being put forward.

I was recently fortunate enough to have such a prenatal, intrapartum and postpartum experience as your proposal talks about. I worked with Hamilton domiciliary midwife Claire Hutchinson. Being a well trained and experienced professional who has a natural (or holistic) approach, I felt I could trust her and enjoyed working with her. This certainly made my experience as a first time mother a better and more enjoyable one.

Working with Claire I felt I was able to have the best of both worlds - i.e.

- the benefits of a natural birth, such as no unnecessary use of drugs and the freedom to do what I wanted.

- and a hospital backup if necessary also the postnatal care of a hospital was

My care by Claire during my experience involved

- prenatal visits by her.
- a planned hospital birth assist by her. I was able to quickly contact her 24 hrs a day.
- postnatal visits both during a week long hospital stay and at home.

Having a midwife who I already knew and trusted meant it was easier to relax, feel happier and feel confident.

Such assistance as given by Claire in the Waikato region should be the right of option for every mother and child, and I fully support your attempt to establish it in the Auckland region.

Yours Sincerely Lynn Joyce.