

17 June 1996

Sandra Sinclair  
Chairperson of the Wellington Branch  
New Zealand College of Midwives  
c/- Hutt Maternity  
Hutt Hospital  
High Street  
LOWER HUTT

Dear Sandra

## **DISCUSSION OF THE NEW MATERNITY ARRANGEMENTS**

Thanks for the opportunity to come and talk to you about the changes to s51, the maternity payments schedule. The issues raised during our discussion have been reported to the RHA.

The specific issues raised were:

- Shared care arrangements and the new schedule.
- Subcontracting and the need for negotiating skills in the new environment.
- Rural travel supplement with reference to midwives providing services to women in Upper Hutt and Akatarawa.

There are two approaches that the RHAs are taking for this issue. This may include the midwives that live in these areas:

- The RHAs may designate a domicile code as rural.
- The RHA may also designate some midwives as rural midwives and make an additional supplementary payment to cover abnormal additional costs associated with providing midwifery services to some rural women.
- Ultrasound scanning. Allowance is made for two ultrasound scans, one in the second trimester and one in the third trimester. A notional budget holding allowance of 1.4 scans per woman has been determined based on known average scan rates. This means that the number of scans per woman, per practitioner will be adjusted according to the

average rate over the actual rate if this is above 1.4 scans per woman. There will be a quarterly adjustment for this.

If you have additional concerns you may address these to the Central RHA directly or you may contact me. My phone number is 04-499-4888 exn 7265.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Wheeler", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Kim Wheeler