

NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES

WELLINGTON REGION

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CO-ORDINATOR

This has been a particularly long and challenging year. My role as the co-ordinator has been enlightening/ frustrating, occasionally fun, sometimes an unnecessary burden, but I have enjoyed the experience and I thank those people who twisted my arm last year.

The Wellington Region is alive and buzzing. As practitioners we are faced daily with dilemmas, treats to our practice, animosity between midwives yet we still seem to be able to get past all this and I believe we function well together.

My trips to Christchurch have been enlightening, sometimes frustrating. The politics at National Committee meetings have to be experienced to be believed. Whilst the NZCOM has been described as an innovative organisation, I feel that we have to be cautious not to take on the dogma, superiority complexes and non - partnership type practices associated with many other institutions.

There are many issues that continue to consume time for those working in Ch-Ch. Predominately this year there has been S51, MPO, Conference, Bounty, Consensus Statements.

S51 seems to be ongoing. MPO's have been developed throughout the country. Our region has followed a different path to others. Whilst we experienced initial hostility our differences have been acknowledged and progress is being made.

Consensus Statements have been produced and published for use. As with others information that has been received I have tried to disseminate these to the Regions maternity units. As I had only one request for a copy, I can only assume that everyone has easy access to these statements.

Legal Advisor

By far the wisest move in 1995, was the appointment of a legal advisor. Jackie Pearce is worth her weight in gold and is available, approachable and indispensable to midwives. Cases against midwives are increasing. Please remember if you receive a letter of complaint, ACC claim or suspect you may require legal assistance in relation to your midwifery practice, please contact the college ASAP.

Fees

The ongoing fees debate. Firstly ALL midwives claiming from the Maternity Benefit (regardless of whether it is a \$20 claim or a \$50,000) MUST pay the full membership fee.

All salaried midwives i.e. those not claiming s51 only have to pay the half fee. This includes salaried, non hospital staff, providing continuity of care.

Regarding the fee level. At the AGM, Wellington was the only region to vote against the fees increase. The Central Area did vote against it, but their co-ordinator believed that the increase was valid.

Chris and my concerns were

- 1 We did not have adequate time and information to look at the proposals.
2. No research appeared to have been done to look at the effects of doubling fees on membership levels.
3. We were not provided with financial information that was A) Beneficial, B) Relevant and C) Correct.

ChCh have now gone back to the Region looking at decreasing fees, i.e. 10% across the board.

I have written to them asking for information that will allow midwives to make an informed decision. We do after all state that we believe in informed consent!

EDUCATION SESSIONS

Val Fleming and Cheryl Benn provided many midwives with an informative thought provoking research study day. Those in attendance were the first to see Val.'s model of midwifery practice.

Thanks to Marion McLoughlin for organising the antibiotics course. Perhaps a rerun could be organised for those of us, sick ,working or on leave at the time.

Our recent speakers Dr Birgit Negusie and Jan - Ulf Anderson from the Institute of Education Research in Stockholm presented a fascinating talk on traditional birth practices in Ethiopia. Birgit has looked at the birth knowledge of traditional midwives for her doctoral thesis and presented a very interesting talk, even if there was a gremlin in the slide projector. Jan Ulf talked about research, knowledge, and there philosophical underpinnings. I noted quite a few Massey students taking copious notes during this session.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has helped me during the year .

SUE CALVERT
REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR.

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