

Home births number grows

One thousand babies have been born at home in New Zealand with the help of the Home Birth Association, says group spokesman Mrs Jessica Maclean.

To make even more women aware of the option, this week is Home Birth Week.

In shopping centres in Wellington, Waikanae, Paraparaumu, Porirua, Upper Hutt, and Lower Hutt the group has arranged displays of photographs and information about home births.

"We want those who feel

attracted to home birth to be aware that it is available," Mrs Maclean said.

Last year the association was involved in 350 home births. About 50 of those were in Wellington, where two midwives do home deliveries.

"It is certainly growing. There are more and more midwives registering throughout the country."

Mrs Maclean said the majority of births were without complications.

"About one in 20 are transferred to hospital but most women have normal deliveries once they get there," she said.