



18 JUL 2018

Ms Philippa Murphy  
philippa@babycues.info

Ref. C1801478

Dear Ms Murphy

Thank you for your email of 13 April 2018 regarding postnatal education and health promotion. I want to acknowledge your significant effort in coordinating the Change.org petition.

I have read the open letter from the petition, as well as many of the comments from signatories. Several of the points raised in the petition are aligned with the strategic goals of the current New Zealand Health Strategy, in particular the importance of early intervention as well as health promotion and prevention.

As you may have seen, Budget 2018 sets out the Government's plan to rebuild critical public services, and includes significant increases in funding for health – the largest we have seen in nearly a decade. One of our first areas of focus in maternity care is the sustainability of our midwifery workforce.

Budget 2018 includes a package of additional support for community-based midwives, in direct response to the pressure they have been under. Half of the \$103.6 million allocated for operational funding will go towards an 8.9% 'catch-up' increase in fees for over 1,400 lead maternity carers (LMCs).

It will take more than one budget to turn around nine years of under-investment and neglect in health. While we will be unable to achieve everything we would like to immediately, we are ambitious and absolutely committed to improving our public health system and the services New Zealanders are able to access.

The insights and stories shared by you and the signatories of the petition have been passed on to Ministry of Health officials. However, there are several other avenues for expressing your views that you and the signatories of the petition may be interested in.

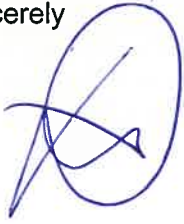
As you mention in your letter, the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction is currently underway. While the formal submission process has closed, you can still share your views with the Inquiry Panel by email ([mentalhealth@inquiry.govt.nz](mailto:mentalhealth@inquiry.govt.nz)).

I also recently announced the Review of the New Zealand Health and Disability Sector (the Review). The overall purpose of the Review is to provide recommendations to the Government for an equitable, sustainable public health service that delivers the healthcare that New Zealanders expect and deserve.

The Inquiry Panel is expected to engage with the public in making their recommendations. I encourage you and the signatories to share your views on postnatal education and health promotion with the Panel when the time comes.

Thank you for writing to me and for coordinating the petition. I wish you the very best.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized letter 'D' with a horizontal line crossing it, and a vertical line extending downwards from the bottom of the 'D'.

Hon Dr David Clark  
**Minister of Health**