

I am an Australian midwife, lactation consultant and nurse working in New Zealand where the government fully supports me to practise to my full capacity offering women evidence based, one-to-one care including the option of homebirth. I would come home tomorrow if the Australian government was to similarly support midwives however instead I face discrimination (denial of access to Medicare) and prosecution if I were to support the next generation to birth safely at home.

My mother and all her cousins were born at home with a midwife in Sydney, I had a highly questionable and traumatic caesarian section, for my grandchildren to have the better more loving option they must be born in New Zealand, or another country whose government does not discriminate against some of its midwives and families, and is open to evidence based maternity options rather than political expediency!

I also object to the ongoing snow-balling waste of Australian health dollars in supporting fear driven and risk-filled technological birthing options (elective epidurals and caesarian sections) but not the cost-effective, evidence-based choice of an independent midwife and homebirth for all healthy Australian women!

Denise Hynd
Midwife, Lactation Consultant
West Auckland