

To whom it may concern,

I am 28, fit, healthy and ten weeks pregnant.

I am planning a home birth facilitated by an extraordinary midwife in whose hands I feel absolutely looked after and supported. Every time I speak or meet with her I come away feeling calm, excited and absolutely in control.

Instinctively this is what feels best for me. This is what feels RIGHT for me. I am not sick. I am not at high risk and it feels completely unnecessary for me to give birth in a hospital. I understand for some women this is unusual and may not be their choice but it is mine and it is mine to make. Women must be allowed to choose how and where they give birth.

Women must be allowed to trust their instincts and give birth in an environment that feels supportive and caring with the safety of a support person who is an expert in his or her field.

Independent midwives must be given the due respect for the invaluable service they provide the community.

Their existence serves to free up our already overflowing public hospital system and allows low risk pregnancies like mine to exist as they are- natural, normal occurrences in a woman's life.

Independent midwives must have access to professional indemnity insurance and be allowed to continue their extraordinary work.

Edwina Wren