

To whom it may concern

My name is Amanda Oldfield. I am e-mailing you hoping that you and the Australia Government may listen to the voice of your citizens of Australia. I congratulate the Australia Government on giving Midwives and Nurse Practitioners the 'space' to work more freely within their scope of practice. For allowing them to work more holistically with their clients. BUT what I am most deeply disappointed with and very angry is that this 'freedom' has not included homebirth midwives? WHY??? I actually would like a written response on WHY homebirth midwives have been left out?

Now for my personal experience. My hope is that you take into consideration that my experience and the experience of many other people who have had home births have been amazing, professional and safe for both mother and baby.

My husband and I have experienced two wonderful home births. Both our daughters have had the privilege to be born in the comfort, protection and safety of their home. Our first daughter was born in New Zealand where home births are seen as a birthing option (unlike Australia). Independent midwives in New Zealand have the authority and are trusted (as should Australia home birth midwives) to walk beside a woman from early pregnancy right through the birthing experience and postnatal care.

Our second daughter was born here in Australia under the professional, safe, and supportive care of Helen Sandner from the Central Victorian midwifery group practice in Bendigo Victoria. At this point I would like the Australia Government to somehow understand the high level of care I received from the Central Victoria Midwifery Group. We were treated with the highest respect and dignity. We as a family were given professional care right throughout the pregnancy and postnatally. We always felt as if we had the highest level of information, research, and books etc to make informed decisions on every aspect of the birth of our daughter.

Please do not exclude home birth midwives. Please let me and my family continue to have the option to give birth to our children at home.

From my personal view, birthing is a natural process. As women we are made to give birth. Why does it seem that Australia women and the Australia government want to limit a woman's ability to birth at home in her own environment, in a place she feels safe, loved and respected. Why are you taking the right away from a woman to birth in the intimacy of her own home?? Please know that I always felt safe, involved and respected by Helen and the team at Central Victorian midwifery. Please give them the 'space' to provide women like myself with home births.

Home birth midwives are highly trained, very experienced, motivated, respectful, compassionate, professional, caring, supportive, informative, dedicated, and most of all committed to providing the highest level of care.

Please include Home birth midwives in the new bill

Kind regards and looking forward to your response

Amanda Oldfield