

To Whom it May Concern,

I am extremely disappointed by the lack of democratic representation around the issues of home-birth midwifery in politics. I think this lack of support of a concern so pertinent to the women of Australia demonstrates how little the current government truly represents the concerns of women today.

Politics it seems is dominated not only by the concerns of men, but also by their financial interests. It appears that the only true reason why home-birth midwifery is being made virtually impossible to practice is so that the dominant obstetrician/hospital model of birth may remain strong and unquestioned - even in the face of women's disempowerment, physical harm and emotional trauma - that seems to be an increasingly normalised experience of childbirth (and general health care!) within such a model.

The decision, or the lack of decision related to granting women the midwives able to help in home-birth is effectively an abuse of womens rights. To disqualify women the right to consider all of their options and to receive the optimum care possible in whatever scenario they choose to give birth in, is akin to deciding that women are irrelevant and incapable when it comes to making decisions about what is right for them, their bodies and their children.

I think that the only people that wouldn't take a supportive stance on such an issue would be politicians who do not consider women's rights of a higher importance than the financial interests of our desperate and incompetent health industry.

Please demonstrate to me and the other women of Australia that you truly will represent our interests. Please do what you can to assist homebirth midwives to receive medicare and insurance. Or at least ensure that it is legal for midwives to attend to homebirths from July 2010.

Thank you.

Bonnie Stanton