

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am an Australian citizen and a mother of two - one of which was a planned homebirth. Regardless of your personal beliefs on homebirth, it MUST be included in Australia as a legitimate choice for women.

Women should have the power and the right to decide how they birth their babies. When a fully elective caesarean section, for no medical reason, is sanctioned and fully funded by the government, it is a blatant injustice that a woman who chooses a fully natural birth with no intervention has no financial aid and possibly not even the choice or right.

Homebirth has been proven to be as safe, if not safer with better outcomes for mothers and babies, as hospitals. The number of women who choose homebirth is less than those who have babies born before they get to the hospital. Homebirth has been an intricate part of our human evolution, with most European countries recognising and even preferring this option. It is obscene that Australia should be so antiquated and conventional in light of such information.

This bill to ban Independent Midwives and therefore homebirth is a horrendous violation of my right as an Australian citizen, woman and mother. Homebirth should be a legitimate option for those women who choose to use it.

Regards,  
Julie