

I am a mother of two boys and am newly pregnant with my third child. Both my children have been born at home with the same midwife and I am looking forward to the same care at home this time too.

I find it astounding that only a few months after my next child is due next year that women may no longer be able to access this type of extraordinary care and birth in their own homes.

I was extremely pleased to discover I was pregnant as I felt I was under a great deal of stress to conceive before September. Babies conceived after September and born at full term will be due after 30 June 2010 and thus will not be able to be born at home without serious repercussions for midwives.

I would like to have another child after this baby but I am reconsidering. After two amazing homebirths I simply refuse to birth my baby in a hospital. It makes no sense to me that I would be required to go to hospital when there is nothing wrong with me. I'm not sick, I'm pregnant.

I am also concerned that women who've had hospital births and due to hospital policies have been given the full range of interventions, often resulting in cesareans. Some of these women then turn to Homebirth because they believe that the hospitals have given them nothing but post birth trauma and a (debateable) "high risk" label. These women will most likely be left out of state run homebirth programs. Not that any such programs exist in QLD. Some of these women have and will birth unassisted because no provisions have been made for them in the past to have gentle uninterrupted births. These "high risk" women, it can be argued need more care. Leaving them out of any solutions and requiring that they either birth in an institution or at home without any qualified assistance is appalling. Women deserve to have the right to make informed choices and not to have their choices limited by government.

There has been a section of the community that has always chosen to birth their babies' at home. No legislation will stop that. So the question must be asked; will the government support these women by providing them with equal access to a skilled birth attendant or will it instead ignore them, passing them and their babies off as insignificant, not worthy of access to skilled care providers?

The government can solve this issue if they choose to, by providing midwives who attend women at home with equal access to professional indemnity insurance. It's that simple.

Sincerely Genevieve Searle,