

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed changes of the above bills which will effectively make home birthing illegal in Australia. I am a medical practitioner and have chosen to have my children born at home. This was an informed decision I made to provide what I felt was the best choice of health care for my family. As you will be aware home birthing is supported, and funded, by numerous government around the world including UK, Canada, Netherlands and New Zealand.

By allowing women to make safe, midwife supported choice about their births it allows women to feel empowered and supported during birth. This, as evidence shows, leads to shorter, safer, births and excellent bonding and recovery. When midwives are in attendance safety can be monitored and informed decisions made about the need for emergency care, just as they would be in a birthing centre.

I ask you to amend this bill so as not to exclude midwife supported home birth from those choices legally available to women in our country.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Penny Golding