

Monday, 10 August 2009

Subject: Professional Insurance Indemnity.

I am a mother of six children, five of whom were born at home.

Homebirth is not only a right; it is a philosophy, a passion. While I don't expect everyone to agree with my views, opinions or beliefs, I do expect in this country to be able to practise them.

If this legislation is past, it will take away the safety net that home birthing parents have access to at present. A independent midwife becomes part of the family, developing a interment relationship with not only the parents, siblings, extended family but also the unborn child, therefore more able to meet the needs of the mother and baby at the time of the labour and birth, this making home an amazingly safe place to birth.

Indemnity insurance has always been unaffordable to this group of professionals, if this legislation is past they will know longer be able to practice in this way. This then will take away a democratic right of an Australia citizen to choose a independent midwife as the preferred professional carer.

While this legislation on the surface appears to be a safety net, looking more closely it would seem a very clever way of doing what some have been trying to do for years, that is to stop the practice of home midwifery (to out law/ make illegal independent midwifery) and alternately to take away the rights of a woman to be in control of were and how she chooses to give birth.

In Australia we pride ourselves on the fact that we are a country of freedom, free to vote for who we feel will most serve our needs, freedom of religion, free to choose where and how to educate our children or ourselves, freedom to choose our medical carers or the type of care. These are basic rights and if they are taken away were will that leave us????????????????

In bringing this submission to a close it needs to be made very clear that there is only one place were a home birth can take place that is at home, were the mother and baby is nurtured and care for by the people she knows, trust and loves. I am joining with woman and man both herd and unheard in saying **NO** to this legislation being past.

M Payne