

If there are any queries or concerns, please call Joy ASAP. Thank you!!

REGARDING THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR CHANGES TO MATERNITY CARE IN AUSTRALIA -

IMPACT STATEMENT PROVIDED BY: Tania Flavell

MY STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) As a mother of three (two born at home - 1 in USA, 1 in Australia) I am very concerned that my two daughters, who both view homebirth as the normal way to birth babies, will not have the option to give birth the way they would like. It grieves me that their choices as women will be lessened and they will be forced into a medical environment; either that - or forced to travel overseas for the chance of a legal, supported homebirth with trained midwives.
- 2) As a student midwife (Bachelor of Midwifery, Melbourne) I am feeling extremely uncertain and concerned about my future as a midwife! Although I appreciate that the new legislation contains many pro-midwifery benefits, I am disheartened to consider the future of homebirth in Australia, and frustrated to contemplate a future in midwifery that does not allow midwives to practice in their full capacity, according to the International ^{Confederation} ~~Council~~ of Midwives' definition of a midwife.
As a student - how will I gain any experience of natural birth at home, with midwives who work as independent practitioners? It is severely limiting our scope of practice, therefore providing little opportunity for beginning midwives to broaden their skills.

T Flavell

DATE: 17/7/09.