

Barbara Worrall

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009

To whom it may concern,

**Re: REGARDING THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR CHANGES TO MATERNITY CARE IN AUSTRALIA**

**MY STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:**

- **Are you/and your partner still planning to have more children?**  
No we had our children years ago now.
- **If not, do you have friends/family that will be affected if homebirth is not an option for them?**  
Two of my girls are still having children and they would like to have them at home with a midwife present. They also have friends who are in the same situation. Even though I birthed all of my girls in hospital, and homebirth wouldn't necessarily be the way I would choose to birth; I trust that my girls' know what they are doing. If that means homebirth with a midwife is what they want, then that is what I want for them. To think that the government thinks it would be okay to take away homebirth with a midwife as an option is outright dangerous and absolutely stupid. My daughters still rave about their beautiful birthing experiences, so it just goes to show how important 'woman centred' birthing options such as homebirth with a midwife are for women.
- **What about your own children's birthing choices?**  
Every woman must have the right to birth where they want; please let my girls have a midwife with them at home.
- **How do you think an absence of homebirth and independent midwifery services might impact on your community?**  
I really feel for the women who want this option, what are they going to do – it doesn't seem very fair to me. Independent midwives really do provide great care.
- **Will your local hospital be likely to provide a homebirth program?**  
No our hospital closed down years ago, and the nearest hospital is 40 minutes away so women in our town will not be able to birth at home.
- **Do you live a long way from mainstream maternity care?**  
40 minutes
- **If an independent midwife assists you prenatally, or provides lactation consultancy, or post-birth support, or is mysteriously present during your birth anytime after July 2010, then they could face legal action (if they're caught). What do you think about that?**  
Unbelievable
- **If you with-hold information about a midwife who's still practicing unregistered, you could be legally liable. How do you feel about that?**  
Who is making this legislation that is what I would like to know. Clearly women and birth doesn't mean much to them.

**IMPACT STATEMENT PROVIDED BY:**

Barbara Worrall

**DATE:** 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009