

Tom Kricak

Wednesday 15th 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?**
Yes we are; we would love to have two more children.
- **If not, do you have friends/family that will be affected if homebirth is not an option for them?**
Yes friends of ours and family members want to have homebirths with a midwife in the near future.
- **What about your own children's birthing choices?**
I hope it will be an option for them if that is what they want.
- **How do you think an absence of homebirth and independent midwifery services might impact on your community?**
Enormous impact, but mostly for the midwives who work in this area, but from my perspective definitely it will impact the women who want to birth at home, especially my wife.
- **Will your local hospital be likely to provide a homebirth program?**
More than likely not. They are a very conservative hospital and do not provide services that are woman centred. My wife could not have a water birth in hospital with our first child and she is still very upset by this. She really wanted to have a water birth and they would not allow it because they did not have a policy for it. They didn't care about what she wanted for her and our baby. So our decision to have a homebirth second time around has been wonderful for my wife, our children and for me.
- **If you are planning to have more children, will you want to choose homebirth?**
Yes we want to have more children at home with a midwife. I had some doubts at first when my wife wanted to birth at home for our second child, but after having such great care from our private midwife, I can't imagine my wife birthing anywhere else. It was very special for all of us. I know that when it comes to birth it really is about my wife and our baby; however I also think it is important that you all understand that my own feelings were important as well. Having our second child at home, I felt so much more comfortable, than when we were in the hospital with our first child. I didn't have the stress of the drive into hospital, and I could relax on the couch and be with my wife. It was an amazing experience.
- **What will you do after July 2010?**
Hopefully we will get pregnant before
- **Do you live a long way from mainstream maternity care?**
25 minutes
Just fill in the form.
- **Will you choose to birth at home *without* a trained midwife?**
NO

- **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?**

There certainly are some stupid people in our government, how could they possibly not allow a midwife to be at a birth at home.

- **If you with-hold information about a midwife who's still practicing unregistered, you could be legally liable. How do you feel about that?**

There really are some dumb people in the world.

IMPACT STATEMENT PROVIDED BY:

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DATE: 15th July 2009