

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

IMPACT STATEMENT PROVIDED BY:

SAMANTHA BEWS

MY STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Our community in Castlemaine, Vic. is unique. Along with generations of farmers & orchardists; people working in industry such as furdergies and small goods produce; it has attracted many people choosing to ~~live~~ live outside the mainstream. This includes many artists, but more recently, <sup>a</sup> professional ~~first~~, well-educated class of people who have decided to put family and lifestyle ahead of financial and career advancement. Thus, there is a strong hub of parents in Castlemaine committed to building strong communities with an emphasis <sup>on</sup> the well being of the child. Homebirthing, birthing choices, independant consultation on all birthing issues is ~~a~~ often a cornerstone in their beliefs. The threat to independant midwifery is a threat to a vital core of ~~our~~ our community, a core that because of its committed ment to ideals adds energy, focus and well being to all ~~the~~ families in our community. - ~~transcript~~

My own experience ~~of~~ of independant midwifery is as follows: On moving to Castlemaine I was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  months pregnant. I was suffering from acute hyperemesis and had already SIGNED been hospitalised 3 times. I began to slide into DATE: a pre-natal depression. It was suggested to us that we engage an independant midwife to help me

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MY STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

with the pregnancy and also to assist me in the birthing process in HOSPITAL as I had other health issues that were adding to my anxiety about giving birth. Our independent mid-wife was ~~fantastic~~ invaluable: she gave us a sure plan ~~with~~ to go into the birthing process and gave me confidence and the security that a professional who had engaged with my health history intimately before I arrived at the hospital would be with us through the birth. To be able to consult with a midwife of my choice, given my pregnancy and birthing history had been so complex, was vital to my well being at the time. The skills of the midwife are different to those I could have sought (with financial difficulty) from a private obstetrician. The time and attention given to me were more abundant and the specific needs I had as a woman thoroughly understood. I was consulted on my home which was important. I would hate to think that service would not be available to others in my position.

SIGNED:

DATE:



14.7.09