

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

IMPACT STATEMENT PROVIDED BY:

Helen Smith

MY STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

Homebirth is a safe, evidence-based model of maternity care for normal pregnancy and birth - many countries have homebirth as a standard model of care for women, providing women with the choice to birth at home (at a fraction of the cost of a hospital-based birth).

Furthermore, birth is a normal event in a woman's life - not an illness! Hospitals do not necessarily provide the atmosphere required for this very personal, intimate experience. Much evidence points to the fact that when women remain in the familiar environment of their own home, labour progresses more smoothly, requiring less interventions and therefore a better start to life for mothers, babies and families.

I urge you to strongly oppose the legislation to effectively make homebirth illegal. Every woman should have the right to choose the best maternity care for herself.

SIGNED:



DATE:

14/7/09