

Dear Sir/madam,

I am writing to you to express my surprise and utter disbelief that the Australian government is trying to make homebirth in Australia illegal.

My name is Rachael Porter and I have had two homebirths with two qualified midwives in attendance at each one. I made an informed choice to have homebirths and I don't believe this choice should be taken away from women. Women can choose to have a Doctor as their care provider, why not a midwife as they attend 70% of births world wide anyway. Midwives are the experts in normal births and homebirth is safe, as the statistics show.

However, for the small percentage of women who need to be transferred to a hospital, this process is facilitated by a skilled midwife who decides if the transfer is necessary and can then stay with the woman during the birth. Many other countries, such as England and New Zealand, have homebirths as a choice for women under a Medicare system. How can the choice of women be ignored. The government is supposed to listen to its people and make laws accordingly.

I hope you will consider and respect my opinion and choice for future children.

Yours Sincerely,

Rachael Porter