

Dear Senator Moore,

Please reconsider taking away an independent midwife's right to attend homebirths in Australia. These midwife's are highly experienced health practitioners and it is a travesty that from July 2010 they may be unable to oversee a homebirth.

I birthed my second child at home after an incredibly difficult birth in hospital with my first. I feel so fortunate to have experienced the joy and empowerment of homebirth. I felt safe in the knowledge that evidence based research proved that homebirth was safe for me and that I found a wonderful, caring, experienced, confident midwife to keep a watchful eye over me, to perform the necessary observations and to encourage me to birth my baby.

The relationship that I formed with my midwife will hopefully be life-lasting. I got to choose whom would be my midwife, I was able to build a trusting relationship with her and felt she not only had my best interests at heart, but that she genuinely cared for us as a family.

Independent midwives should be able to seek insurance and should be covered by medicare - this is the best possible outcome for everyone. Australian women should be afforded the right to make the choice to homebirth if they so wish, with the healthcare provider of their choosing.

Please hear the voice of the minority that are pleading with you to give all Australian women the right to birth at home with an independent midwife.

Your sincerely,

Claire Vankuyk