

I am a mother of two gorgeous children, both born by non-elective caesarean, after all the ideals of a 'natural birth' were overridden by an obstructed labour. We also have an adopted 3rd child from Ethiopia. Through whatever means of creating a family, I think people have a right to a free choice, to be informed of the risks and the uncertainties, then to make a family based decision on how they want to bring their children into the world.

I think in so many ways it is so sad that the Australian Government feels endangered by the thought of allowing women to have choice. European countries are encouraging women to be more educated, to be more open minded - there is less intervention and less problems with birth in these kind of environments rather than the dictated ones (ie the US). Look at the intervention rates here, look at the US, how many more enforced C'sections do we need to see.

Given my birth background, I understand there are times when intervention is required, and should be available, but I still think a women should have a choice!

In Africa (where I daughter was born) they are now working hard at educating women in communities to assist with labour, as they have found out that more problems occur when a women travels to the hospital (walks 30+ kms to get there!) than giving them fantastic education in the community, and keeping her where there is good water and facilities, and support around her.

Once Australia moves in this direction - there will be no going back. I think it is criminal to not allow and trust women to make the right choices for their bodies and their children.

Please consider this wisely.

Best Regards,

Carolyn Suggate