

Dear Ms Roxon,

The livelihood of midwives, the practice of independent midwifery & the choice of who can care for pregnant women & her family is under threat.

As a woman wanting to have children I will choose a known midwife to support me during pregnancy, labour, birth and in postnatal time.

I support independent midwives.

I also support Medicare funding for midwifery care, but with the inclusion of homebirth from this funding arrangement.

Australia must keep step with with nations such as the United Kingdom, Canada, The Netherlands and New Zealand. These nations support the rights of women to choose homebirth and fund a registered midwife through their national health scheme. In New Zealand and the U.K women have a legislative right to choose homebirth.

The intersection of this legislation with the national registration and accreditation of health professionals will prevent homebirth midwives from registering. I believe this to be an unintended consequence and ask that you take steps to include homebirth within the Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) and related Bills.

I support a system where all consumers are treated equally, with the same access to funding and the same insurance protection.

Yours sincerely

Susan Schodde