

Hello, I'm writing in regards to the current inquiry into homebirth being included under medicare and related legislation. We birthed our first child last year at home with a local midwife and found the experience to be both gentle and well supported for all involved.

It is a basic human right for a woman to be able to choose her place of birth, with the assistance of medicare rebates this may open up the homebirth option to some families who can't make this choice as of the cost involved.

I'm also aware to some degree that the maternity services review may mean that it would be illegal for woman to birth at home with a private midwife as of July 2010 as of legal issues.

This is really concerning as it would take away a basic right to woman to choose there place of birth, I'm aware many woman don't choose to birth at home but I also believe birth has become to be seen as a medical event where woman can go into process thinking the worst anyone who has experienced a natural drug free vaginal birth in the safety of their own home supported by there midwife of choice comes away with the experience that we can do it.

I feel that as woman we need education to be broader around birth and our birth options to be spelled out homebirth being one of them.

Thanking you- Ms A Quinn