

Please support medicare and insurance for homebirth midwives so that women can continue to have a midwife attend their birth at home. Otherwise many women will be forced against their wishes, to birth unattended from July 2010 due to lack of insurance - which (although in most cases goes well regardless) is not as safe as having a midwife attend.

In my case, in April this year, due to unusual complications I was forced to transfer from a homebirth to hospital for an emergency C-section, and having my midwife there was invaluable. I don't know where my daughter and I would be without her. Please do not put women's lives and the lives of our children at risk unnecessarily! I intend to have further children at home in the future, because despite what happened to me being imperfect it was still an ideal experience. Please don't limit my reproductive choices - I shouldn't have to beg for these basic health and safety precautions.

Please encourage an insurance company to develop an indemnity insurance policy and allow homebirth midwives to have access to Medicare just like it is proposed for other midwives. Or, at the very least, "allow" midwife-attended homebirth to continue past July 2010 so that responsible homebirth midwives will not face any charges for attending births after this date.

Kind regards,  
Renée Barker Middleton