

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the legislation that is being put forward soon to make midwives who practise home births illegal.

I find this situation deeply disturbing and **my family wholeheartedly advocate amending this legislation, so midwives in private practice can have indemnity insurance and attend home births.**

I am 31 years old. I live in Melbourne, with my husband and three children who have all been born at home (in water). My first two births were attended by registered midwives, my third was a 'free' birth(that is without the presence of a medically trained person), instead we had a doula(lay midwife) present. My husband and I took great lengths to become educated about our birth choices, we did extensive birth preparation and took full responsibility for each decision we made. It was only because of the thorough and wholesome support of the midwives in our first two births that we chose to be with a doula in our last birth. (We had an interview with a registered midwife about choosing a free birth and she answered all our queries, gave me her full support and informed us on all of our options in the event of this decision. I credit her for her honest and gentle professionalism and steadfast belief in my innate ability to birth naturally). Which I did graciously. Therefore, I am very proud to say that our children have been born into the most loving, peaceful and natural environment that we could provide, legally. We are a close, connected and empowered family because of these choices.

My husband and I are planning to have more children. I am not a free birth advocate. I am not a water birth advocate. I am not even a home birth advocate.

I am a pro-choice advocate. Women of this country deserve the opportunity to an empowered birth wherever they choose it to be. I became empowered by being at home in water with whom we chose to employ being present. Deregistering midwives from attending homebirths would not stop home births from happening, it would only turn them 'underground'. Creating unnecessary risk for all involved. I understand that statistically as a birthing women, I stand in the 1% of homebirthing women in this country. I am proud to be apart of that 1%. I am proud to be an Australian women making fully informed birthing choices for myself and my family.

From the very core of my being, with the only power I have politically, which is my own voice; **I request a reconsideration to be made to the ' Medicare for Midwives Legislation' so they can receive insurance and provide homebirths to Australian women.**

In the empowerment of birthing choices for women of this country; and personally, for myself, my daughter and for the generations to come.

With Deepest Sincerity,

Janelle Da Silva - Young
Paul Young and family