

My name is Vicki Chan. You will not know the name as over the past 20 years I have been quietly going about my business as a Registered Midwife attending women who choose to birth at home. In fact I have attended around 400 births at home, in all cases mother and baby being alive and well. I have travelled to attend births as far as the Hunter Valley to the south and to the tip of Cape York Peninsular in the north but mostly as with the most recent birth a couple of days ago, here on Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

This week, I am a champion of mothers, a protector of babies, and an advocate for the well-being of families. The same time next year, I may well be jailed for the same day's work.

Presently, due to the option not being available, I work uninsured. Under new legislation, from July 2010, attending birth uninsured will become illegal. As no options for insurance have become available, by default, homebirth with a Registered Midwife will be outlawed.

Both midwives and the families they serve have the right to the protection of indemnity insurance. Please protect the right of families to choose homebirth with the proven safety of being attended by a Registered Midwife.

Thank-you for your attention to this matter.

Vicki Chan