

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to voice my concern regarding the inequity of not funding and indemnifying private homebirth. I recently gave birth to my daughter at home and believe that for a low risk pregnancy, women of all financial capabilities deserve the choice to be able to birth at home, in the comfort of familiar surroundings.

My birth at home was an accident. I was booked into private hospital, but my labour was quick and I didn't make it to hospital, birthing at home instead with the support of a doula. Once I arrived at hospital I was subjected to unnecessary interventions. I had a terrible time in hospital and am now convinced that home birth should be an option for all women. I wouldn't hesitate to give birth at home again or recommend it for women with a low risk pregnancy.

To remove support to give Australian women and families the ability to birth at home sets us back in the world and women's rights. It sends the message that by not funding and indemnifying private homebirth, Australia is not willing to give women the choice to birth in their preferred way. Additionally, it increases the likelihood of unnecessary interventions in hospital for women who are low risk and would otherwise have a natural birth.

Regards,
Rebecca Knight