

I wish to lodge my strong opposition to excluding homebirth midwives from professional indemnity insurance cover. The safety of women and babies will be directly affected by making it illegal for professional and experienced midwives to attend homebirths.

It is disgraceful that Australia is pushing homebirth underground when studies have shown again and again that homebirths are as safe as hospital births when a trained midwife is present. Will it take babies to die and midwives to be jailed for the proposed legislation to be turned around? I certainly hope not!

Homebirth is cost effective and places less strain on the hospital system. Women who have a positive birthing experience are also much less likely to suffer from postnatal depression and physical postpartum complications.

Women deserve to have the choice of birthing at home and receiving one-to-one care from a qualified midwife. Don't let Australia be dragged back to the dark ages!

Regards,
Tonje Akerholt