

To whom it may concern,

I wish to express my huge disappointment in the lack of provisions in the recent maternity review for women's choice for home birth.

I am a midwife of 21 years, have worked in numerous maternity care settings, including public & private hospitals, community midwifery practice & home birth. I was fortunate enough to have been able to have the fantastic experience within the Darwin Home Birth Service which provides safe options for women to birth at home. The service is a publically funded option for women & is well backed up by the local public hospital & the community. The midwives working within the home birth service in Darwin always adhered to strict consultation & referral guidelines endorsed by the Australian College of Midwives ensuring safety & autonomy for all women & midwives.

I also had the incredible & most rewarding experience of having had a home birth of my last child 12 years ago in QLD. I was under the care of an extremely experienced midwife who ensured safety was first & foremost in the planning of my care.

It is a backward step for women & midwives in this country in not providing choice for women with low risk pregnancy to birth at home.

Please consider the ramifications of such a move if home birth was outlawed

Yours sincerely
Doris Bryant
Midwife, mother of 2