

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing in relation to the Inquiry into Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and two related Bills.

I strongly believe that it is essential that home birth be included in the Medicare funding and Indemnity arrangements.

I am a mother to two boys and with both births I chose to home birth. My chosen Independent Midwives were instrumental in making both births a safe and joyous occasions to remember and the most beautiful, important moments of my life.

As a normal, healthy, educated (Tertiary BA/BSc degrees) 28 year old woman, after much research into possible birthing options, I felt sure that the safest and most emotionally secure place for me to give birth was in my own home. I arranged for two qualified midwives to attend each birth and as we live within a 5 minute car ride from the Mercy Hospital for Women (in Heidelberg, Victoria), I felt that for me in my circumstances, that having a home birth was as safe or safer than giving birth at the birth centre or hospital ward.

During my first pregnancy, I purchased an excellent booklet from the Birth Centre at the Mercy Hospital for Women, entitled Preparing for Birth: Fathers - Background notes for Pre-natal Classes by Andrea Robertson (ISBN 0-9588015-5-x). At the top of page 7 it states:

"The World Health Organisation states that normal, healthy pregnant women may wish to consider a number of options, and that for these women, giving birth in their own home is the safest option."

Surely the LAST thing we want in Australia is to make a law that makes giving birth in one's own home, with the assistance of trained professionals, illegal!

I implore you, as the decision makers, to give women and families the choice to give birth where they feel most comfortable and secure. For most it is in a hospital setting, but for some home birth is the ideal choice.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views, and please act to preserve the rights of women and their families to choose homebirth.

Yukima Cameron