

Dear Senate Committee

I am a 22 year old female living in Victoria. I do not yet have children and it is not something that is in my immediate future.

However, my nephew was born in his own home with my sister being able to be completely relax and comfortable in a familiar environment where her and her husband had control over who was present at the birthing of their son. They were able to achieve this with the help of a highly experience and qualified midwife.

I would like to have the oppotunity to make this decision for the birth of my own children and I consider it a complete injustice and violation of the freedom of Australian parents that legislation is being proposed that would make this illegal.

Furthermore, this legislation will result in people being denied a career choice. There are midwives who go through university and training for the sole purpose of becoming homebirth midwives. They want to support these families that choose to birth their children in the comferty, familiarity and security of there own homes and this legislation will make there choosen career paths illegal. It is not fair or right to turn these men and women into criminals.

Please support the right of Australians to choose where and with whom they share their intimate experience of birth and the right of midwives to choose to suupport these people. Do not take this right to make this choice away from my (and future) generation(s).

Kind Regards

Charlene Leighton