

To Whom it may Concern

I gave birth to my daughter at home on 16 September 2007. She was born in water safely and calmly with the support of a home birth midwife and family and friends.

I am outraged by the proposed legislation discriminating against those wonderful women who spend their time supporting labouring women at home. It is a women's choice where she gives birth and I am disgusted that the Government of Australia in the 21st Century is proposing to outlaw privately practising midwives by not including them in the amendment. This is a disgrace and Australia should be embarrassed. Look at where we have come from? Do you really believe that hospitals are the 'only' place that a women should give birth? This amendment does not support all women in Australia today, it does not represent the society as a whole.

All over the world, governments, nations and communities support home birth for low risk women, in fact in a lot of European countries, it is encouraged. How then, is Australia so backward in its thinking? Australians need a government that is strong and encourages the same strength from the community. Australians want all health consumers to be treated equally.

I support Home Birth Australia and ask that the legislation proposed is amended to include midwives caring for women at home.

Kind regards,

Claire Anderson