

I am a passionate believer in the ability of healthy women to give birth without medical intervention. I also believe that the way in which women give birth has a profound influence on the way in which they nurture their children and on the sort of adults those children become.

I have an Honours Degree in Pharmacy from Sydney University and a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Nutrition. My work for the last 25 years (including publication of 4 best-selling books) has involved the promotion of preconception healthcare as the best means to ensure optimal reproductive health - this includes a short, straightforward labour! For the most part, my clients who have taken full responsibility for their reproductive health, would opt for a birth at home if midwifery services were readily available and endorsed by Government Health Departments.

The proposed legislation must therefore be amended, to accommodate the many individuals and all those involved in the delivery of true preventive healthcare, who feel as I do that birth in the home environment is best for the whole family. This Government must acknowledge that a great many families have genuine and well-founded concerns about the long-term effects of current birthing practices in hospitals.

As an intelligent, informed and healthy woman who gave birth (at ages 38 and 42) at home, I ask the Federal Government to ensure that Australian women have complete freedom of choice in their place and manner of birth.

Sincerely,

Jan Roberts