

As a new mother, a homeowner, a state school teacher and an active member of my community I want to communicate my concern to you about the bills which will not provide MEDicare funding, access to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and Indemnity Premium support to midwives. These bills if passed into legislation in their current form will not provide funding or indemnity for homebirth midwives. This legislation will then intersect with National Health Registration legislation (to come into force in July next year) that will require all health professionals to hold indemnity insurance. This will prevent midwives providing homebirth from registering and thus make their homebirth practice unlawful.

I have been shocked into disbelief by the idea that homebirthing might become illegal! What sort of draconian society do we live in if this passes? If a mother decides she might want to use a warm water pool for pain relief and birth, then HOME BIRTH IS HER ONLY OPTION! I cannot access the birthing suite at Royal Womens Hospital in Herston (where they have a few warm water pools), and even if I did, they do not even allow you to birth in the pool! COMe on please, get real and support women. Respect women. Respect Mothers. I believe childbirth is the single most monumentus, life changing, EXCRUCIATINGLY PAINFUL yet potentially wonderful experience I can ever intentionally have.

My recent birth in Redlands public hospital was fraught with intervention from start to finish which made the pain I experienced unparalleled to anything else in life. I though I was going to die, and of course I didnt. I would have loved a water pool for pain relief. I would have loved a home birth. I naively decided to use the hospital for my first experience mostly because i thought it was the cheapest. I have decided to have a home water birth next with a midwife. WHY should I be denied the choice? This is not a developing nation, nor is this 10 years ago. It is unfathomable that you would take that right away from me over something as serious, as PERSONAL as how I choose to push my baby out of my body!

The idea that midwives will loose their jobs, indemnity premium, we loose access to Medicare & PBS is serious and concerns me, but that you might take away MY RIGHT TO CHOOSE HOW TO HAVE A VAGINAL BIRTH IS INCREDIBLY RUDE.

Please.