

To whom it may concern,

i am writing in regards to the proposed laws that may impact on homebirth in Australia.

I am a mother of 3 children and have given birth in hospital twice and once at home.

My 2 hospital births were quite traumatic events, due to a great deal of unnecessary intervention. I was left with a great deal of trauma after my hospital births and therefor decided i wanted a different form of care for my next birth. I met an independent midwife and choose homebirth. I received the most incredible level of care. Check ups that went for 2 hours, discussion on all levels of my care, mental, physical, psychological. (i definitely didn't receive that in hospital),. I felt incredible trust in my midwife and therefor felt so safe in birthing at home. something that is paramount to achieving a positive birth experience.

I gave birth at home to my daughter with my midwife by my side. It was one of the most empowering, positive experiences of my life. I bonded with my daughter instantly (something that was very hard with my other children, due to feeling incredibly traumatised) and felt it was one of the best decisions i had ever made.

Homebirth is not for everyone, but it certainly shouldn't be taken away as an option for women that are looking for one on one , midwifery led care. in my opinion it is by far the best level of care out there, for low risk women. I should know, i have experienced all types of care.

If i was to have another baby, there is no way, that i would go back to a hospital. i would choose to do it at home again. And without medical care - how ridiculous that you would make it illegal for a midwife to attend me in my own home!!! It would be a risk i am willing to take.

Every woman deserves to choose , where and with whom she gives birth.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my opinion,

Lael Stone