

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you as both a mother and as a Medicare provider of postnatal counselling services for women. I strongly urge the senate to re-consider the issue of home birthing and providing a way of making homebirth with a known, registered midwife possible and affordable.

As a counsellor and occupational therapist, I facilitate post-natal support groups for women. One of the most common issues that women bring to these therapy groups is trauma associated with the birthing process. The theme is clear and consistent, women time and again reported that their hospital birth experience was over-medicalised and traumatic. In contrast, those that were actively involved in choosing how they laboured and birthed and were supported to have a natural birth consistently express positive feelings toward the birth experience.

I strongly believe that removing the choice for women to birth at home with a known and registered midwife is a very backward step and will result in increased psychological trauma for women.

Please reconsider.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Lister