

To whom this may concern

I am a mother of two children, both of whom were born at home.

My family and I were fortunate to have the opportunity to have this option and also a strong midwifery practice in our community to support us with this decision.

My GP worked closely with my midwife monitoring my health and well-being throughout the pregnancies and also after the delivery of both children.

Working with a midwife and building a relationship between myself, my husband, my children and also my other family members provided me with a strong support network to not only deliver two healthy babies, but prepare myself and my husband as parents and my wider family as grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Throughout my pregnancies and after the deliveries my midwife provided me with regular health checks in my own home, no need to battle waiting rooms, parking and other difficulties getting out and about pregnant with small children. I was also provided with a huge array of reading material, online resources and also opportunities to meet with other families and women to share stories and create positive support during pregnancy and after. But most importantly we had time to create a trusting and loving relationship to work together as a team to deliver my children into a safe, healthy and loving home and community.

My husband and I plan to have another child and would never consider delivering a child in a hospital setting. We view the risks of contracting illness within the hospital and the possibility of mismanagement too great. It would be a tragedy for our family, to not have the choice to build upon the wonderful support, networks and care that we are fortunate to have now in our community.

Please consider home birth as a option for women in Australia and continue to empower women and families to be supported through this crucial time of life. I strongly believe the midwives hold the foundation for the life of a child, through supporting families through pregnancy, birth and into the parenting journey. This support can not be underestimated and the strength and knowledge that women hold within the bodies must be supported through providing a diversity of birthing options, including home birth.

Don't drive this practice underground in Australia and divide community, local GPs and families. Rather empower family through choice and support the dedicated work of Australian home birth midwives.

Yours in good faith

Tamara Marwood