

I'm a mother of young boys, who wanted homebirths for them right from the start, but decided it would be too expensive, therefore I went through the midwives at a public hospital.

Please include independent homebirthing midwives in the legislation. The majority of women in the world remember the births of their children for life, so I believe it's important for a mother's wishes to be respected and if she has a diagnosed low risk pregnancy, to be able to birth at home with a qualified midwife if she so wishes. Research and statistics all over the developed world show that the births are 'better' in quality and comfort for mother and baby, with lower interventions, cesareans, maternal and neonatal mortality rates, as long as a qualified midwife is in attendance.

The Netherlands has at least 30% of babies born at home and lower maternal and neonatal rates than the US, and Denmark has at about 10% of babies born at home and has one of the lowest maternal and neonatal mortality rates in the world. Why can't fully qualified, trusted competent independent midwives with life-saving equipment for the newborn and sense and skill to know when to send a mother to hospital if needed be able to have insurance!

Please include the homebirthing midwives in the legislation. I will say one thing though, if homebirthing was ever to be outlawed (which it shouldn't), than please don't outlaw it until the whole of Australia is covered with birthing centres just like 'The Townsville Birth Centre' in Queensland, check it out please. It is like a five star hotel! Please remember that birth is natural and possibly 95% of the time could be vaginal. It is not an illness or a disease. Let's keep our hospitals free and especially the theatres available for those who really need them.

I stand for Freedom of choice, safer non-surgical births, better feelings about birth. Please don't outlaw homebirth!

Kind Regards,

Esther Wetherspoon