

Dear Ms. Moore,

I am writing to express my concern at the current changes to the rights of midwives to practice homebirths in Australia.

I am a midwife with 15 years experience, most of which have been spent in the birth centre of the Royal Hospital for Women in Randwick.

I have attended 2 homebirths in my career, the last one being in May this year and I find it appalling that had it been in one year's time, I could be fined \$30,000. The woman I looked after was healthy, had had a previous normal birth and been raised in the UK where homebirth is considered a routine option. The labour and birth took 55 minutes.

While I have no current intention to take up homebirthing as my primary method of employment, I do believe that all midwives should be subject to the the same regulations.

I can't understand how St George hospital can offer a government sanctioned homebirth practice while I would face criminal charges for doing the same.

I believe women have a right to choose where they want to birth.

I also have great concern for the women who choose not to attend a hospital for their antenatal care and birth and decide to have an unattended homebirth. I have spent a lot of time and effort learning how to sit on my hands and watch and recognise the moments when I have to act.

Yours Sincerely,

Tess Back