

To Whom It May Concern

ANGRY and SAD. These are the two words which most clearly convey how I feel about the government's pending legislation to deny privately-practicing midwives access to indemnity insurance.

I am the mother of two gorgeous little girls who were both BORN at HOME with a PRIVATELY-PRACTISING MIDWIFE in attendance.

I believe BIRTH is a NATURAL process. Women's bodies are DESIGNED for giving birth. It is NOT ROCKET-SCIENCE!! One DOES NOT need to be in a HOSPITAL to SAFELY birth a baby. My husband and I are of the opinion that one's HOME is the most SECURE, COMFORTABLE, CONVENIENT and NATURAL place for a baby to enter the world.

I REFUSE to birth in a HOSPITAL (unless it is absolutely essential) so, if this legislation is passed, I will be FORCED to birth my next child at home ALONE -- WITHOUT the SUPPORT, BACK-UP and PROFESSIONAL guidance I would receive from my midwife. I am not thrilled by this possibility, but it seems I may be left with NO OTHER OPTION.

It SADDENS me that so many people are so IGNORANT when it comes to the topic of child birth -- automatically accepting everything a DOCTOR tells them, not stopping to consider any OTHER OPTIONS.

It makes me FURIOUS that the government wants to TAKE away MY CHOICE to have a RESPONSIBLE HOMEBIRTH.

At a time when so many HOSPITALS are claiming to be OVERLOADED with patients and DOCTORS are claiming to be OVERWORKED, why FORCE MORE PEOPLE into the hospital SYSTEM??

It is VITAL that midwives are granted ACCESS to INDEMNITY INSURANCE so that they may CONTINUE PRACTISING privately and so that the WOMEN of Australia RETAIN the RIGHT to CHOOSE how they BIRTH their babies.

I truly hope you take time to consider the points I make in this email and make the right decision.

Yours sincerely  
Katrina Freemantle