

To the Committee Secretary,

As a mother and a student midwife, I just wanted to say that it is vital that homebirth with an independent midwife be accessible to all Australian women. I have four children and my last two were born at home. Compared to my first birth (a caesarean) and my second birth (in a NSW birth centre), my home births were perfect in every way, as I felt safe, cared for, and had a midwife on board who had exceptional skills and integrity, who respected me as an individual woman capable of choosing where, and with whom, I should birth my baby.

After completing a doula course, I am now in my second year of the Bachelor of Midwifery, with a view to becoming an independent midwife as soon as humanly possible. I believe that it will only be independent midwifery that will allow me to practice to the full scope of my profession and support the autonomy of women.

Most importantly, solving this issue will enable Australian women to maintain their very basic human rights.

Thank you very much for taking the time,

Sincerely,

Liana Rhimes