

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recommended changes in relation to the Maternity Services Review. My eldest daughter homebirthed our first grandchild and will birth our second at home very shortly, and my youngest daughter plans to homebirth in the future. I understand that the government plans to make homebirth more available by attaching it to hospitals, similar to the Community Midwifery Programs which already exist. I applaud this move and also allowing midwives to access medicare.

However, independant midwifery must be retained. The type of homebirth programs the goverment plans to include will not serve the best interests of women. Collaborative care is not what the majority of intelligent, well informed homebirthers want. They do not want Obstetricians and hospitals deciding whether or not they can birth at home. The choice to birth at home is wholly and solely a woman's right, and must not be subject to hospital policy. My daughters want the right to hire an independant midwife, and make decisions about their birth themselves, not be at the mercy of essentially a hospital. many woman who currently birth at home would be classed as high risk and would not be able to homebirth if the new system comes in. This becomes simply illogical when one considers that for a woman who has had a previous caeserean, the chance of a uterine rupture is less than 1% if she attempts VBAC (vaginal birth after caesarean), this would be classed too high risk. Whereas amniocentesis which is classed as a routine and safe procedure has a 1-2% risk of miscarriage, yet its not classed as a high risk procedure.

Woman have the right to make their own decision regarding where and how they birth, to outlaw independant midwifery is removing a safe choice for all women. Woman have the right to decide what is done with their bodies, not the goverment of health system. Midwives must be allowed to continue practicing independantly with or without insurance.

My children and grandchildren have the right to choose homebirth with an independant midwife, please don't remove their choice.

Kind regards,

Christine Tricarico