

I am writing with great concern over the recent maternity services review. Particularly the legislation that will make it illegal to birth at home with an Independent Midwife.

There is conclusive evidence to show that a birth at home with an Independent Midwife is safe for both mother and baby. There is less intervention & better outcomes than in hospital. Breastfeeding rates are better among homeborn babies & the level of satisfaction felt by families who birth at home is much higher.

So why take that choice away?

This is a human rights issue. It is the right of families to decide where to birth their baby safely. It is the right of women to choose the support of an Independent Midwife in their pregnancy & birth.

A woman can choose an elective caesarian for no medical reason which is more dangerous for both mother & baby & it is not only legal but funded by Medicare. It makes it seem absurd to make a safe option illegal.

Homebirth is legal in every other country in the world. In places like The Netherlands & New Zealand it is funded by the government & their birth outcomes are among the best in the world.

By forcing women into hospital you are forcing them into a system where the caesarian rate is over 30%-which is unacceptable according to the WHO.

Keep the rights of Australian women, children & families safe. Don't take mine & my daughters right to choose where to birth away. Keep babies and mothers safe. Keep homebirth legal.

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