

To The Committee Secretary

While I support changes to streamline the registration bodies and allow midwives access to Medicare PBS and PII, thus bringing all states in line, I cannot support the decision to not include home birth and effectively make it illegal.

This is blatant discrimination NOT based on clinical evidence or health and I implore you to make changes to the draft legislation so this doesn't go ahead. To do so would be a substantial step backwards for Australia in terms of human rights and health care.

While there is obvious financial incentive for obstetricians and some doctors to keep birth highly medicalised it is not always the best option for women and it's certainly not the best option for struggling public hospitals which have sick people needing them. Many governments around the world embrace home birth as a cheap and safe option if under the care of a midwife (UK, NZ to name a couple) why not Australia?

Women will continue to birth out of hospital and there are great risks of poor outcomes when they do so with out medical support currently provided by home birth midwives.

It is my opinion that health care should be about health and care not about money and power.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sarah Gittins (McKinnon)