

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to you regarding the Bill that is put forth for homebirths In Australia.

I am concerned for the freedom of choice that women (and their families) have had about where they will birth their babies and the care that they choose during pregnancy.

We personally (my husband and I) had a 'spectacular' birth of our first child in November 2008. This was the most delightful experience for us and our child, compared to other people birthing in hospitals... Not having the freedom to say 'No' to particular dugs/shots for the mother AND baby. We could go on and on about how truly wonderful our experience was, but I'm trying to make this letter short (as I know you would have a few to read).

Our 2 midwives we had meant everything to us. I turned out that we truly did need them for the support after our daughter was born at home, as Charlotte (our daughter) swallowed her own meconium which caused an infection in her lungs which lead to oxygen starvation, which in turn 'could' have lead to death if we did not have our midwives 'on hand' when we needed them. Long story short, we did have to go to the hospital... Because we NEEDED to. There was nothing 'wrong' with the birth and I could honesty say the same thing would have happened in the hospital (being the kind of person I am, not allowing any intervention etc, plus heir was no 'detection' that Charlotte was in stress).

We believe the government should look at birthing a baby as a 'normal & natural' thing of life (which in fact it is, as most of us don't need doctors intervening with the conception...) Australia could save a lot more hospital beds for people who truly need them, not fill them up with women doing a natural normal thing in life (unless high risk of course).

So it comes down to, Women NEED midwives and a freedom of choice on where to birth their babies. It's like having a choice to eat what we want... It's a natural normal thing, surely this isn't hard to understand, except for the fact that the medical profession try to make pregnancy and birth a 'medical condition'.

In short, we think (as said above) that Families should have a choice to birth where ever they like, whether it is in a hospital, their backyard, in a mountain hut... ANYWHERE!!! It's a freedom of choice, and it should remain that way for this beautiful country.

We plan to have more children under our wings, and we would like to have all of them born at home (or wherever) and have midwives care for us during the pregnancy, as this is a special beginning to a new life, but if the government say 'no' to midwives supporting women who choose this alternative, then we may consider doing it alone or moving to a country that does allow this practice, this is how much it means to us!

Yours truly,

Sam & Tara Mauger