

Re: National Regulation of Health Practitioners

My name is Emma Ritchie I am a Mother and am writing to you to urge you to amend the proposed legislation regarding Privately Practicing Midwives. We chose a Midwife in private practice to support us in the births of our two beautiful daughters in Broome, Western Australia. This required a dedicated Midwife to fly over 2500 kilometres to be with us for their births in 2005 and again in 2006. Like many rural Australian towns the options surrounding birth are extremely limited, and after assessing ALL our options we chose one to one midwifery care with a private practicing Midwife.

This was our preference because we wanted to birth at home, we wanted the option to birth in water, we wanted privacy, to be cared for under a midwifery model of care, we wanted to know and have built a trusting and open relationship with our midwife and we wanted the occasion of birth to be as private and intimate as possible. We were NOT disappointed, and feel so privileged to have had two amazing experiences which have positively impacted our transition into parenthood.

I feel angry with the current proposed legislation as it further restricts childbirth options for women in this country, we are planning more children in the future what are we to do?

We do not feel birthing without a qualified professional is the right choice for our family and although we have private health insurance, unless medically indicated hospital birth whether it be in a private or public facility is NOT an option for us.

What we want to do is again employ our Midwife to support us through our pregnancy, birth and post natal period.

How dare the current Government try and dictate where when and with whom we birth our babies. It is our democratic right to choose, we are both well educated, well informed individuals and find the proposed legislation insulting.

This is a human rights issue and it is your responsibility to legislate appropriately ensuring every woman has every choice made available to her.

Yours Sincerely

Emma Ritchie