

16 July 2009

RE: Medicare for Midwives

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns with regards to the future of birthing choice in Australia.

I understand that after 1 July 2010 a new regulation system will come into place regarding midwives, health practitioners and caregivers and the requirement they be covered by indemnity insurance. While this is a fair request it does not consider the issue that midwives in private practice cannot obtain insurance in Australia at present. This will then leave people who wish to choose alternative birthing options, such as home-birth, with no option to be cared for legally by a midwife.

Birthing is a personal and intimate experience that is different for everyone. These differences need to be considered and individuals choice in how they wish their birthing experience be respected. With this in mind establishing a law that effectively removes an option, such as home-birth, from the possible options available to birthing parents is a great travesty.

I wish to request that a solution be sought to this issue immediately before this new law is introduced. Birth is a wonderful and special process that needs to be safe but also be allowed to occur as parents choose.

Sincerely yours,

Garth Hobba