

Dear Sir or Madam,

We have been informed of the forthcoming health legislation amendment bills about the provision of maternity care in your country. Our organisation, the German Society for childbirth education, family support and women's health (GfG) is pleased to read that Australian women will benefit of continuity of care along pregnancy and birth. Nevertheless we feel very much concerned about the other side of the amendment which excludes the option of home birth.

This cannot be a matter of safety, because all statistics on planned home birth in industrialized countries show that home birth is safe for mother and child.

We know out of experience that the opposition to this option is often based on old beliefs. Sometimes also the will to control women's reproductive life might lead to such inadequate decision. What is at stake is the freedom of choice! How could a democratic government force women to go to a specific place which they don't choose in order to give birth? I know this kind of procedure from the old socialistic eastern countries. After the fall-down of the socialistic regime, it is a hard work there to find appropriate regulation. But in Australia !

I would like to suggest checking again, whose interest it is to reduce the freedom of citizens.

Looking forward to good news, I send you my best regards.

Elisabeth Geisel

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