

To whom it may concern.

RE: Senate inquiry into National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Doctors and Other Health Workers.

Please table this email as a submission to the committee.

Maree Cisera  
62 Morris Lane  
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To the Senate,

I am writing to request that Independent Midwives are allowed to legally continue to practice with full registration until professional indemnity insurance can be sourced at a reasonable (affordable) rate.

At present independent midwives are practicing without indemnity insurance. I understand that, as of July 2010, it is likely that these midwives will be unable to attain registration, given they are unable to access indemnity insurance.

As a staunch advocate for real choice for birthing women, I fully support the availability of homebirthing with an independent midwife.

I have had three babies. The first was born in a private hospital under the care of a private obstetrician. The impersonal, conveyor belt, style of maternity service delivery was horrid. My birth was stressful, despite a very normal pregnancy AND birth, and the post hospital stay nearly destroyed my chances of breastfeeding my baby. After this experience we hired independent midwives for our second and third babies. The contrast was astounding. I felt supported and in control, where I had felt bullied and helpless in the face of the obstetrician. Our homebirths were beautiful and I easily transitioned to feeding my newborns. Our post natal care was faultless and I felt supported the whole time. Our whole family was involved in welcoming our new babies and we were happy to "self-insure" in the face of the lack of indemnity insurance.

I understand that homebirth is not for everyone, but it is the gold standard of care. One to one, midwifery with visits often happening in the woman's own home is far superior to waiting upto hours for a few minutes of an obstetrician's time.

With obstetric trained doctors leaving rural practices at alarming rates, women need all possible options for care to be available or there is a very real threat of a maternity crisis in rural areas.

I want the option to homebirth available to my children and indeed any woman who wishes to pursue this model of care in Australia.

Thank you for the opportunity to table a submission and for your consideration on this topic.

Maree Cisera