

Exposure draft

Ildiko Keogh  
to:  
NRAIP  
17/07/2009

Dear Sir/ Madam,

My son was born at home 7 weeks ago under the guidance of two highly skilled midwives. This was a wonderful experience witnessed and supported by my extended family. If I am blessed with more children, I want to have them at home with the same midwives. It therefore saddens to hear that I may not have this choice come July 2010.

By taking this choice away from me, the government is disregarding the sovereign rights I have over my body and is denying my rights to choose where and how I give birth.

I applaud the recent improvements to maternity services but it is short sighted of the Government to not cover Homebirth midwifery under the new Commonwealth supported insurance scheme. It is also short sighted to discriminate against privately practicing midwives, who cannot comply with the national registration rules for all health practitioners to be covered by professional indemnity insurance.

It is your responsibility to ensure that homebirth with a midwife in private practice remains an option for all Australian women. And it is your responsibility to respect a woman's rights over her body and provide her with birth choices.

Yours sincerely,

Ildiko Keogh  
Queensland