

Exposure Draft

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The new regulatory system MUST find a way to include the option of pregnant women choosing a private, independent, qualified midwife as her care-provider. Midwifery care is known to be the best practise in 1-to-1 care and is highlighted by the World Health Organisation as the gold-standard of pregnancy and childbirth care for a large number of women, and so it must be made available to whomever would choose this model. The place of birth must be something decided in collaboration with the client's care givers, and could be her home or another appropriate and safe place (such as a hospital) where her midwife is respected for her professionalism, experience and position.

I am a 34 year old mother, privileged and grateful to have the care of one midwife through 5 pregnancies - 3 of which ended with the hospital birth of my 4 kids (1 set of twins). All Australian women should have the opportunity to choose this care if she desires it, just as all Australian women can currently choose other models of care.

Regards,  
Terri Niejalke