

Exposure Draft

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As a midwife working with Aboriginal women for better outcomes for their babies, I have encouraged the women to take responsibility for their own well-being. The option of birthing safely at home with a midwife offers an opportunity to take that responsibility from early in pregnancy and not be a passive bystander as often happens to Aboriginal women in hospital. The first hours after birth are so important in the mother-child relationship and if this can occur in a non-threatening, supportive environment such as a home it should be encouraged. Aboriginal women want to have the choice of birthing where they feel safe and indeed are safe with a midwife to care for them.

It is essential that midwives are supported to provide this option of care for all women but especially Aboriginal women if we are to continue to work towards decreasing the health gap (of 17 years).

Indemnity insurance for midwives who support homebirth will ensure safer birthing outside hospital and will indeed enhance the health of Aboriginal mothers and babies.

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