

REGARDING THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR CHANGES TO MATERNITY  
CARE IN AUSTRALIA -

IMPACT STATEMENT PROVIDED BY:

LAURIE VIGOR

MY STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

MY WIFE RECENTLY GAVE BIRTH TO OUR 2<sup>ND</sup> DAUGHTER AT HOME. THE EXPERIENCE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE DIFFERENT FROM THE BIRTH OF OUR 1<sup>ST</sup> CHILD AT A HOSPITAL. IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS, AS WE WERE RELAXING IN OUR LOUNGEROOM HAVING CUPS OF TEA WITH OUR INDEPENDANT MIDWIFE, BACKUP MIDWIFE, SISTER-IN-LAW + 2 BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS, IT STRUCK ME HOW COMPLETELY ABSURD THE NOTION <sup>WAS</sup> THAT WE WERE SOMEHOW BEING "RADICAL"!

OUR HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE WAS CHARACTERIZED BY STAFF WITH AGENDAS DICTATED BY PARANOIA + THE CLOCK, LEADING TO A CASCADE OF INTRUSIVE INTERVENTIONS WHICH WERE A BENEFIT ONLY TO THE HOSPITAL SCHEDULE.

AT HOME, THE BIRTH WAS ALLOWED TO RUN ITS NATURAL COURSE WITHOUT THE BRIGHT LIGHTS, \* CONSTANT INTERRUPTIONS + UNFAMILIAR SURROUNDS. OUR DAUGHTER CAME INTO THE WORLD IN A CALM + INTERVENTION-FREE ENVIRONMENT, AND BOTH MY WIFE I FELT VERY WELL SUPPORTED + SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE WERE IN THE CARE OF A PROFESSIONAL WITH MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

SIGNED: 

DATE: 14/7/09

WITH NORMAL PHYSIOLOGICAL  
CHILDBIRTH - AN INDEPENDANT  
MIDWIFE

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