

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

IMPACT STATEMENT PROVIDED BY:

Marion Yates

VIC

MY STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

13th July, 2009

Preserving homebirth with an independent midwife as a choice is extremely important to me.

My views and preferences with respect to birthing options are not reflected by the proposed maternity services legislation. In fact the Maternity Services Review Report argues that because women choosing homebirth are a minority, their views and preferences are to be disregarded. This seems to be an undemocratic basis for healthcare legislation.

There is a strong homebirth community where I live in Central Victoria, which is made up of people from all walks of life. My GP has given birth at home, as have several of my daughter's teachers, and I myself, gave birth to my second child at home a little over a year ago. I believe that the homebirth community is an important part of the broader community, representing a strong set of values around family and women's rights, as well as contributing in a very real way to supporting families and women giving birth.

My own experience of homebirth has enriched my life in many ways. Over the course of my pregnancy my whole family were able to develop a strong personal relationship with our Independent Midwife, who visited us in our home throughout. The experience of birthing in the safety and familiarity of my own home with a highly skilled Midwife, is something which is irreplaceable to me. I was also able to make connections with people in the local homebirth community, who provided meals, advice and moral support after the birth of my baby. This type of support, which is so essential to new mothers, is a hallmark of homebirthing networks.

I had my first child in a private hospital with an Obstetrician, and, having experienced both models of care, I would definitely choose to have a homebirth with an Independent Midwife in the future.

This is an issue of freedom of choice. I believe it is my right to choose a homebirth with an independent midwife, and I believe it is the government's duty to preserve this choice for all women.

Sincerely,
Marion Yates

SIGNED:



DATE: 13th July 2009