

To whom it may concern,

I have recently been informed of the process that is being undertaken to investigate independent midwives when a complaint has been put forward.

This is deeply disturbing. What has our health system come to!!! Are we living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Where is ones human rights? Where is the rights of women?

As a person who has received the services of an independent midwife, I am appalled at what is going on this country we so called the "lucky country". This process is totally unacceptable, unfair, unjust and unethical. No conditions should be placed on any midwife before an investigation has taken place. If a woman decides to birth at home, hospital, in the bush it is her prerogative, her human right, her body, her baby. Who is to judge this decision. Women who choose to birth at home with a qualified, highly skilled, registered midwife, is not an uneducated, illogical woman. She is a woman who has thought about the process very seriously. If for some unforeseen circumstance she should transfer to hospital she and the midwife should not be scorned upon. No obstetrician, midwife, nurse or health care practitioner can foresee what will happen in the birth process.

Does the government want to see the rise of freebirthing and have increased infant and maternal mortality on their records. Woman will be forced to take this option if an urgent review of this process doe not takes place immediately and that some balance be restored.

Birth is not an illness. Pregnant women are not patients. Birth is a normal physiological process. Midwifery and homebirth is not a crime.

Please do not let homebirth go underground. Please do not let us become a nation that is so underdeveloped in our thinking, but a nation that is proactive, forward thinking and looking after the rights of women who choose to birth wherever they wish.

Concerned citizen.

Elizabeth Isaacs