

To whom it may concern,

I am concerned about the current situation by which independent midwives are being processed. If there has been a complaint against them, then it is unacceptable, unfair, unjust and unethical that conditions are placed on any midwife before an investigation has taken place. Especially as this practice seems to only be placed on independent midwives.

I have grave concerns that at any time an independent midwife could find her registration under restriction and this would exclude her from continuing to be a main care provider to a woman choosing homebirth.

This could force the mother into the hospital system, essentially under duress or she may choose to free birth, which is homebirth without a medically trained professional at hand. This is both dangerous for the mother and child.

I am concerned that there is an ongoing discreditation on the part of the AMA towards independent midwives and the homebirth process. There is plenty of scientific evidence which supports homebirth practice, when under the supervision of a medically trained professional. By placing such a burden on an independent midwife in regards to the ease in which her registration could be placed under restriction, means that the homebirth practice may end up "going underground". This does not bode well for the health of Australian women and children.

I request that an urgent review of this process takes place immediately. And that Homebirth Access Sydney is permitted to present during this process.

Regards