

23 September 2011

Ms Tracy Martin  
National President  
Australian College of Midwives  
PO Box 87  
Deakin West ACT 2600

Dear Ms Martin and ACM Board Members

In response to the ongoing threat to homebirth in Australia and the Australian College of Midwives (ACM) releasing the **Interim Homebirth Position Statement and Guidelines** for feedback, Homebirth Australia has consulted with stakeholder groups across the country.

As a result, the Australian Homebirth Consortium (AHC) has been formed from interested stakeholder groups. The aim of the Australian Homebirth Consortium is to bring the groups working for homebirth together to share information and work together for the future of homebirth in Australia.

There is significant concern amongst many midwives and consumers as the 'interim' statement is already being used to regulate the care that women can receive and being cited in disciplinary proceedings for midwives. It has been endorsed by Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the Nursing Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA), **before** feedback has been received from consumers and private midwives.

We the undersigned request:

- That the Australia College of Midwives **immediately** withdraw the current position statement on homebirth as it is currently negatively impacting on women and midwives, and formally consult widely with midwives, consumers, their representative groups and others affected by this regulation before reformulating this statement.
- That the Australia College of Midwives formulate a guideline whether part of the ACM Interim Homebirth Position Statement and associated Guidelines or separate, that clearly and unequivocally endorses and documents the process for **a woman's right to informed refusal and the midwife's right to provide care** for her in pregnancy, labour, birth and postpartum **irrespective of the woman's risk status and without regulatory or legal consequence for the midwife.**

Yours Sincerely



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Homebirth Australia  
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**Homebirth Access Sydney (NSW)**



**National Alliance for Student of Midwifery**



**Home Midwifery Association (Qld)**



**Australian Private Midwives Association**



**Homebirth Alliance Northern Rivers (NSW)**



**Hunter Home and Natural Birth Support (NSW)**



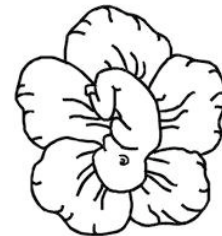
**Conscious Conception and Birth Centre (WA)**



**Joyous Birth**



**Darwin Homebirth Group (NT)**



**Birthtalk.org - Brisbane (QLD)**

**CANA – Caesarean Awareness Network Australia**

**Julie Uren – Midwife/Chiropractor**

**Blue Mountains Homebirth Group (NSW)**



**Homebirth Australia**



**Sally-Anne Brown, Remote Rural Midwife**

**Apollo Bay Otways Homebirth Support Group (VIC)**