

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Reproductive, Maternal and Paediatric](#)  
**Subject:** Select Committee on Reproductive, Maternal and Paediatric Health Services  
**Date:** Monday, 16 September 2024 12:43:36 PM

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Dear Secretary,

I am writing to the Select Committee on Reproductive, Maternal and Paediatric Health Services in Tasmania, because I need to share my story.

My name is Ash, I live in the west tamer area. I have three children, they are 10, 9 and 2 years old. I would like to address the care that I never experienced in my pregnancy/labour/birth/post-partum of my 3rd child here in Tasmania in [REDACTED]. The previous children have their own unique stories but today I share just one.

#### PREGNANCY

In my pregnancy, with baby number 3, I visited my GP in [REDACTED] to confirm my pregnancy, I had already decided I wanted a home birth,

My Dr placed me in the system and I was contacted twice by phone, when I said I was having my baby at home, i was told i was being irresponsible and could kill my baby. On the 2nd call i was told because I was unvaccinated, I would essentially be treated as I was infectious and would have to wear masks and my partner couldn't attend appointments or birth at a hospital. This confirmed my home birth even more so, not once was I offered support of any kind, 3 months later I received a letter for an appointment at LGH which I of course did not attend as I didn't want to be ridiculed again.

#### LABOUR

In my labour, I rang ambulance Tasmania non emergency and informed them I was birthing my baby unassisted at home and provided my address in the unlikely event of anything bad happening but just for some support. They called my partner back once during my labour to see how I was and told us to ring back once I had birthed baby and placenta, which we did.

#### POST-PARTUM

I did not receive any support after my birth. I went to the gp on my own account 3 days after birth for check up.

Luckily for me as I am completely self motivated and have immense self belief in my body and babies right to birth freely, does not mean I don't need or desire or deserve to have midwife support while bringing life to the world.

#### SOLUTIONS

The recommendations that I have are:

- Access to publicly funded homebirth, birth centre or a birthing with community services
- Easier and wider access to midwife led continuity of care models
- Access to a known midwife
- Access to unbiased evidence based information is a definite must.
- Legislation on informed consent
- Mandatory trauma-informed training for clinicians
- More funding for post-partum care, such as physio, social worker, lactation support
- Improved support for early pregnancy loss

Kind regards,  
Ash