

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Reproductive, Maternal and Paediatric](#)
Subject: Submission to the inquiry
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The Select Committee,

Due to the shortage of private midwives in Tasmania, in order to have a 'homebirth' we had to book an Airbnb in Hobart - 3 hours from our actual home! We had to travel to Hobart for our prenatal appointments or have them via telehealth, which is obviously not ideal for prenatal checks and care.

Also due to the shortage of private midwives in Tasmania we weren't able to choose a provider that we actually felt comfortable with. We had to go with the only one available. This impacted our experience with our pre and post natal care, and care during the birth. We ended up being advised to transfer to hospital. Medical staff chatted about their holidays in the background. Procedures were not explained as they were being performed. We didn't know our baby had been delivered by forceps until I asked. We requested delayed cord clamping but it was cut at 40 secs for our baby to receive airway support away from me (the mother)- even though our baby's apgar scores were 9 at all assessment. Our baby should not have been removed from my arms. The postnatal care on the ward was not existent. We were treated poorly by the maternity ward staff as 'failed homebirth transfers'. I received little breastfeeding support. It took 3 shift changes to finally be released from hospital- I was supposedly to be processed at 10am- finally out at 5pm! Left on my own with our newborn as my partner was forbidden to return due to insane and unscientific COVID restrictions. Then when released I was shown the door holding my baby and my bag, struggling to walk with post birth trauma. No assistance from the maternity ward to find my way out to my partner waiting in the car. Until a random orderly found me struggling, got a wheelchair and took me to the car.

It's beyond ridiculous that if you choose, want or need to have a homebirth, the most psychologically normal and appropriate way to give birth for mother and baby, and family, you have to pay thousands and thousands of dollars. Or you can have a birth for free if you're willing to sign over to the medicalized interventionist system.

The system is backwards, broken, unscientific and is harming mothers, babies and families.

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