

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Reproductive, Maternal and Paediatric](#)
Subject: Submission to the inquiry
Date: Monday, 16 September 2024 8:31:38 PM

The Select Committee,

I have experienced three pregnancies in Tasmania. My first ended in a missed miscarriage, I birthed my second at the RHH and my third was a homebirth earlier this year.

My miscarriage was in [REDACTED] and required two D&C's- I felt very let down by the lack of support from the public sector in terms of post op follow up & recovery, and emotional support (there was none). I ended up seeking advice from a private obstetrician (I do not have private health insurance) in regards to ongoing issues after my miscarriage that were not followed up by the public system.

I conceived my second pregnancy in [REDACTED] and opted to have private obstetrician care out of pocket for the first trimester in case of another miscarriage as I could not risk needing to go public for a subsequent early loss. However my bub was fine and although I gained a spot in the 'know your midwife' program I was removed from the program as I was spending 3-4 months living aboard my yacht and sailing part way up the East Coast of Australia. I was told that I would be taking a valuable place of another woman in Hobart who wanted to be in the program. This contributed to very disjointed doctor led care during my pregnancy. I believe that this contributed enormously to the high intervention, labour and birth that I had bringing my son into the world.

Most members of the RHH who looked after me were wonderful but I believe the system to be a broken one. No continuity of care, obstetrician led rather than midwife led care, no option but to birth in a hospital (not in a birth centre or at home). I definitely feel as though I did not have an advocate who truly knew me and my wishes/needs for my body and my baby. As a healthcare worker myself I understand the need to work to policy and protocol but the hospital based care of a healthy birthing woman is not conducive to a natural or low intervention birth, which is what so many birthing people are asking for and which the majority of birthing people are not receiving.

My third pregnancy saw me seeking a better model of care, which led me to a private midwife. I was super diligent in seeking one out before I conceived as I knew how difficult they are to book due to high demand.

We had been a one income family for almost a year so it was a big stretch to find the money to afford the private midwife but my husband and I both decided that the health and wellbeing of myself and my baby were paramount and that we would make it work.

I can say that it was the single best decision I have ever made in my life.

My private midwife was caring, respectful, diligent, competent, flexible, informative, safe, and she exceeded our expectations throughout my pregnancy, during the labour and birth and also post partum.

This care needs to be an option for all people who are pregnant. We need continuity of care, we need midwife led care and we need options other than hospitals to birth our

children. We need choice.

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