



24th January 2015

Maternal Assisted Caesarean

Maternity Choices Australia supports and advocates for women who wish to have a maternal assisted caesarean. We believe that it is vital that every woman is treated as a self autonomous, self determining, intelligent woman, capable of making the right decision for herself and her baby, based upon the quality evidence she receives from her health care provider.

We see this decision of a maternal assisted caesarean as a step in the right direction to ensuring that every woman is at the centre of her care – care tailored to every woman's individual needs throughout her pregnancy, labour, birth and during the post partum period. If this helps even one woman to feel empowered and in control in the days following her birth, then why can we not facilitate this?

The high rate of caesarean birth in Australia concerns us. We are deeply disturbed at some of the accounts we have heard from traumatised women who felt they were not informed throughout the course of their pregnancy and birth and believe this resulted in unnecessary intervention. However, we believe this is a different issue as women accessing maternal assisted caesarean are making an informed decision.

Maternal assisted caesareans have been helpful to women throughout Australia as this was the right choice for them and their baby. It is wonderful to see midwives and obstetricians working with women in a respectful and professional manner, and we hope to see more of this approach in the future.

We understand that some women may meet resistance from their health care provider. If you are a woman who would like to have a maternal assisted caesarean and would like further information and/or someone to advocate for you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Phone: 0427 474 099

Email: president@maternitychoices.org.au

You can find an example of a policy developed for a maternal assisted caesarean here:

http://kemh.health.wa.gov.au/development/manuals/O&G_guidelines/sectionb/7/b7.10.pdf