



www.maternityconsumernetwork.org.au

“Better outcomes for mothers and babies means better outcomes for the whole community”

THIS IS JUST AN EXAMPLE TO GUIDE YOU. Feel free to add what you like to individualize to your local birthing circumstances.

Dear.....

I am contacting you in regard the National Maternity Services Plan (2010-16), a plan established because of a national review into maternity services in 2009. The NMSP is a federal plan, agreed upon by all health ministers, including state and territory.

Locally, because of the NMSP, we've seen (list improvements). However, due to lack of accountability of the priorities outlined in the plan, birthing women are still struggling to access (private midwifery with visiting access to hospitals, MGP. List anything relevant to your local area).

I am aware Maternity Consumer Network has had a commitment by Greg Hunt, Federal Minister for Health to take over the development of a new maternity plan, after Queensland Department of Health failed in its attempt.

(You can request a meeting with your MP to discuss more if you like).....or

I am asking you to advocate on behalf of local maternity consumers to Minister Hunt, to ensure an independent evaluation of the NMSP takes place and consumers are adequately consulted in the development of a new maternity plan. It's imperative decisions about us, are made in consultation with us. Currently, almost one third of our mums are experiencing postnatal depression and over 14% experiencing PTSD resulting from birth (Boorman, Devilly, Gamble, Creedy, & Fenwich, 2014). We also know the number one cause of perinatal mortality is attributed to suicide.

A national plan for maternity services is vital to improving the current state of maternity services and seeing improvement in women's experiences and outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

.....name.....

Your ADDRESS

References:

Boorman, R., Devilly, G., Gamble, J., Creedy, D., & Fenwich, J. (2014). Childbirth and criteria for traumatic events. *Midwifery*, 255-262.