

Home birth proponents highly educated

Updated July 29, 2012 12:19:20

PHOTO: Research has found women who choose a home birth tend to be tertiary educated.(file photo: Getty Images)

VIDEO: Concern over shortage of midwives(7pm TV News TAS)

MAP: TAS

A national conference in Hobart has been told women who choose to give birth at home tend to be more educated than the general population.

Research done by academic Melanie Jackson from the University of Western Sydney found 75 per cent of women who chose a home birth were tertiary educated.

That compares to about 25 per cent of the general female population.

Ms Jackson said it showed women who chose a home birth were well-informed.

"They certainly are not uneducated or crazy," Ms Jackson said.

The same research found most women who had babies outside hospital wanted to use the services of a midwife but often could not find one.

Midwife Rashelle Szoke said some midwives had stopped providing a home service because of new insurance regulations.

"For some midwives it's becomes financially unviable," Ms Szoke said.

American midwife Jan Tritten from Oregon told the conference she believed the right to give birth at home should be considered a basic human right.

"Two or three years ago we had a conference on birth as a human rights issue and there was another big one in the Hague and then this one here," Ms Tritten said.

"I think putting it into the realm of a human right makes sense because that baby has a human right to be born well."

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First posted July 29, 2012 11:59:06

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