

35TH ANNUAL HOMEBIRTH AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE



DAY 1

Saturday 18th November 2023



GLORIA LEMAY

'Radical and Responsible'

Giving birth to a baby in the year 2023 is a much different experience than it was 50 years ago. The field of medical obstetrics has become more and more dependent on machines, tests and technology. Instead of seeing “responsibility” for the patient as “the ability to respond to what is happening”, the field of medical obstetrics has used machines, tests and technology as a protective shield to avoid being blamed or sued when something in obstetrics goes wrong.

Pregnant women, on the other hand, are using computer technology to search out their like-minded birthing cohort, to find films and photos of the birth they want to have, to research the dark side of interventions, and to find birth attendants with a reputation for recognizing when a birth is proceeding in a healthy way. They are becoming more and more confident in taking responsibility for reclaiming the birth experience, even to the extent of declining to have any paid attendant at their birth. This return to the roots of giving birth is described as “radical”. The words radical and responsible can be used to insult or blame. The same two words can describe a shift in power and insight. The modern view of homebirth is rapidly shifting due to many changes in language and perspective on the part of the consumer.

Gloria's presentation will take place at 9:30am on Saturday the 18th of November