

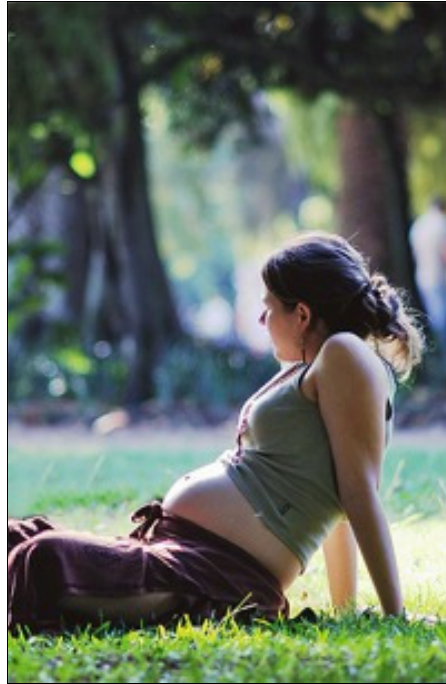
# My Story

“I was 16 when I found out I was pregnant. It was mind-blowing! When I finally found the courage to tell my parents they were even more shocked than me. I’m not quite sure now how or why I decided to keep the baby. But I know those weeks I spent deciding were really awful.

Once I decided I put my heart and soul into making something good of my decision. I quit smoking and drinking, left my private school, and took on the daunting task of telling my family and friends. I was (and still am) lucky because I have the best parents and most awesome best friends in the world. Mum was really excited about the baby and dad, well he came round eventually. My extended family took a little longer to convince, and I know some people who once called themselves my friends were not so friendly behind my back.

My pregnancy was hard. Everything hurt and near the end sleeping was impossible. Finally, a short time after my 17<sup>th</sup> birthday I gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby girl. The labour was long. My mum was with me. Holding my daughter in my arms for the first time was not just amazing; it was scary! I had created life!

Now I look back on the whole thing I wonder where I got the strength to do it. But every bit was worth it for my gorgeous little girl. She and I lead a pretty happy life now. Every day she grows and changes. And every day I love her more and more.”



*Liz Manson*

[[http://www.pregnancy.com.au/my\\_story.htm](http://www.pregnancy.com.au/my_story.htm)] (31 March 2008)