

Dear Senator Moore

Re: Inquiry into Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and two related Bills

I write to express my concern about the above bills. I understand that these bills will enable Medicare funding, access to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and professional indemnity premium support for midwives providing care for women to give birth in hospital, however fail to accommodate the needs of independent midwives who provide home birth services.

I am urging the Australian Government to provide all midwives with the same provisions.

This isn't simply about fixing the hospital maternity system, there are women and families who will want home birth and to have the type of care and support that goes with that. Please don't take that away, please don't let women birth alone.

Please give independent midwives the ability to support women and families have births at home after July 2010.

Yours sincerely

Sara Nest