

Dear Senator Moore

Re: (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and two related Bills

I write to express my concern about the above bills. It is my understanding that these bills will enable Medicare funding, access to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and professional indemnity premium support for midwives within a hospital setting.

Even though this is a huge step in maternity reform, it is not acceptable to exclude homebirth from this funding and indemnity arrangement. The intersection of this legislation with the national registration and accreditation of health professionals will prevent homebirth midwives from registering.

I urge you to take steps to include homebirth within the Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) and related Bills.

It is my dream to one day see Australia in line with countries like the United Kingdom and The Netherlands where nearly 30% of all the babies are born at home. Think of all those extra hospital beds for the sick that actually need them. Even in New Zealand women have a legislative right to choose homebirth as an option.

I support a system where all consumers are treated equally, with the same access to funding and the same insurance protection.

Our son was born at home in Wangaratta with two experienced and skilled private midwives in attendance. The choice to birth at home is one that should not be taken away from any woman.

Yours sincerely

Julie Scott