

Dear Senator Moore,

The Launceston Birth Centre Inc is historically the first "free standing" birth centre in Australia. We are very concerned about the bills mentioned above.

We are absolutely amazed at the blatant bias and discrimination against private midwives as these bills are proving. The midwives who work with our centre have a proven track record of competence, commitment and care for women who birth at our centre or in their client's homes. They have an excellent record with the local maternity hospital which is on hand for high risk births or for help when necessary.

You have an amazing opportunity to rectify the past and bring midwifery in Australia into the 21st century so as to be on par with such nations as Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand & UK by recognizing private midwives and the proficient work they do and put them on the same level as hospital midwives.

Medicare funding, indemnity and access to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme should be made available to all midwives not just those who work in hospitals. This is discrimination!!

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

Yours Sincerely

Richard Holloway