

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.

Medicare funding for midwifery care is long overdue, however it is not acceptable however 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 believe this to be an unintended consequence and ask that you take steps to include homebirth within the Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) and related Bills.

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

I was present as my daughter birthed her baby at home, and would wish this experience for all of my daughters, and my granddaughters. I can't believe, that 30 years since I birthed my children, that women are still having to fight for the basic right to choose what happens to their bodies.

Yours sincerely

Lyn Rose