

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. It is not acceptable however to exclude homebirth from this funding and indemnity arrangement. By doing this Australia is totally out of step with nations such as the United Kingdom, Canada, The Netherlands and New Zealand.

These nations support the rights of women to choose homebirth and fund a registered midwife through their national health scheme. In New Zealand and the U.K women have a legislative right to choose homebirth.

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.

Dear Senator,

This is very close to home for me having had my first child in a hospital and then an unplanned homebirth for my second, I know how important this is to me and my family and friends. I had no intervention and am planning my third child to be a PLANNED homebirth as the difference was like black and white. My second child was born into a dim, warm, safe place being our home for which we will remember forever as exactly that, no lights no Dr telling me how to birth, just letting my body and my baby Harry do our own thing.

Please give all woman the choice. We were better off in the dark ages.

Why is this getting worse not better and safer for Mothers and Babies

Thankyou for listening

Yours sincerely

Amanda Kinnear