

20.07.09
Clare Goodman

Ms Claire Moore
Chair
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

By E-mail: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

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 have two beautiful, healthy daughters – both born without incident at home; one in Ireland & the other in Denmark, which is where I was living at the times. If I had been at home in Australia, I would have wanted to have homebirths here.

The first pregnancy & birth was attended with outstanding professional care & was with a private midwife. The second was provided by the Danish national health & was also exemplary.

I am incredibly grateful that I was able to give birth at home. Birth is a natural life process & I felt completely comfortable, empowered & supported in my choice. As an “increased risk” first time mother (I was over 35), homebirth was not actively encouraged by some members of the community. I however had an incredible fear of having to birth in a hospital, & was supported to carry out my convictions by choosing home birth.

Each birth is TOTALLY individual, for each woman & for each child. I experienced this with my two births. I had everything I needed, peace, familiar surroundings, medical attention & monitoring, & time (VERY IMPORTANT) to give birth naturally & healthily. Women have the right to choose HOW and WHERE they will give birth. I received support in my choice & I would hope ALL women would continue to have this right & support. Especially in a so-called medically & socially advanced nation such as Australia. Midwives are highly trained professionals who are dedicated to helping pregnant & birthing women. They have an incredibly important & privileged role in our community. I am indebted to the care my midwives gave me. Please take care of our midwives & preserve all womens choice to do as they need to do. According to their rights & best interests.

Yours sincerely

Clare Goodman