

Bronwyn Slattery

My Senate Enquiry Submission

Regarding

Inquiry into Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and two related Bills

The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

MY STATEMENT/SUBMISSION IS AS FOLLOWS:

Firstly, I'd like to draw attention to The United Nations Statement on the Rights of Women (1995), which states, "Women have the right to have control over, and decide freely and responsibly on all matters relating to their sexual and reproductive health" This should be an important factor in making amendments to this Bill, which CLEARLY DISCRIMINATES against families who choose to birth at home and midwives who choose to privately practice!!!!

I am deeply worried about the de-registration of privately practicing Midwives.

- The new National Registration and Accreditation for the Health Professions Scheme, will make it illegal for privately practicing midwives to continue in their profession, as they will be de-registered due to a lack of professional indemnity insurance. This will essentially make it **IMPOSSIBLE** for the midwife of **MY CHOICE** to care for me during my pregnancy. And it will mean that to birth in **MY** Chosen place I must have my baby at home **WITHOUT** a qualified professional to assist me, which is not ideal ... **BUT** my home is **MY** ideal place to have my baby, **NOT** a hospital!!!
- This is **UNACCEPTABLE** and I want the government to give our awesome midwives (who choose to practice independently) insurance **NOW** so that they can continue to practice and attend home births.
- Allow Privately Practicing Midwives to obtain professional indemnity insurance - **IT'S THAT SIMPLE**. Midwives are amazing at what they do and should be permitted to continue on in private practice if they so wish - it their basic human right to choose this as a profession!!!! These midwives are **PROFESSIONALS** - despite what fundamental, alarmist obstetricians say!
- Taking away a women's right to choose where she has her baby is **IMMORAL**. What gives anyone the right to tell me that I have to have my baby in hospital? Only I get to choose where I give birth to my children ... I'm certainly not about to hand over my right to choose to bunch of bureaucrats in Canberra ... and neither will thousands of other women!
- If this **RIDICULOUS LEGISLATION** goes ahead - home birth will live on, illegal or not - you just won't know about it! You can bank on that! However, going underground will present problems and sadly there will be consequences ... there will be deaths as a consequence because people will refuse to conform to this one rule fits all mentality, then **THEIR BLOOD WILL BE ON ROXON'S HANDS!**
- Hospital might be the preferred option to give birth by the majority of parents, but that doesn't mean that we in the minority group should be forced to conform to the ideals of others. Is this a democracy or not? I thought we lived in Australia where we had the **BASIC HUMAN RIGHT** to make our own choices regarding health and well being.

IMPACT STATEMENT PROVIDED BY:

Bronwyn Slattery
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