

Re: Inquiry into Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and two related Bills.

These bills need amendments to say that either the Australian government will provide indemnity insurance for home birth midwives or that homebirth midwives are exempt.

Birth is a natural process. Hospitals are for the sick and injured. There is a time and place for hospitals but most women are healthy and by having a homebirth midwife at the birth of a baby is the best option for many women in this country.

Homebirth midwives are the best midwives this country has. They are fully qualified professionals. They are able to help women find the strength within themselves to birth naturally and with minimal pain.

Homebirth have a much lower rate of intervention and a much better mother-baby bonding which is good for families and society in general.

If homebirth is criminalized this will be very bad for Australia.

Please ensure that homebirth continues to stay legal in Australia.

While we are on the subject there also needs to be Medicare coverage for home births in Australia the same as New Zealand does.

This is an injustice that home birthing couples have to pay for a homebirth midwife out of their own pocket.

Sincerely,

Gregory Boone