

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.

I choose to birth with an independant midwife because they are humane, compassionate and 'in the know' i have experienced a wonderful non interventionist birth thanks to home birth. The biggest benefit homebirth brung me was continuity of care and carer, i loved having my midwife as the lead professional at my birth.

Homebirth has been proven to be just as safe, if not safer, as hospital for low risk women, why would you not fund independent midwives when there are so many studies to prove the safety and benefits to birthing women at home....?! Homebirth have fewer injuries and traumatic births that hospital births when studied!

It is very unfair that these midwives are not going to be funded! they choose to provide the best possible care and options to women and its not right that you are going to take this option away.. Midwifery requires, and women deserve, ROBUST and WELL RESOURCED home birth services! to make it illegal for these amazing midwives to prcatice in thier chosen setting as well as to not fund them is LUDICROUS!

The setting in which a women births her baby is immensely powerful and can be the difference between a fulfilling or traumatic birth experience!

I personally chose to birth at home as it is personal & homely, i feel safer and more in control at home than in a hospital where i am 'just another' birthing women. I do not want nor will i ever choose to birth in a hospital as it is such a control and managed setting where no one is individual, everything is homogenised and technology medical intervention is a partner in birth... Technilogy interventions should be only used when needed and the outcome far outweighs the effectiveness of nature.

Womens confidence has been denied in birthing hospitals, they have been led to believe that the ability to 'do' birth is impossible and dangerous without routine intervention!

Homebirth is such an amazing birth option, too hard to put into words and only understandable when one has experienced such an empowering birth event. Birth doesn't have to be traumatic and scary, why oh WHY are you trying to take away this birth option??!! It's safe, costs less than an elective c-section (which is dangerous!! and costs sooo much to fund!! this makes me so angry and confused) why take away the only option for low risk women to experience what they were made for, giving birth NATURALLY as nature intended.... it disheartens me to think that the most natural options are being taken away and we are all being led to birth in the same way... under medical supervision....

If you have had children you will understand the importance of the saying:

MY BODY
MY BIRTH
MY BABY
MY CHOICE

help keep home birth an option for women, and fund independent midwives!!

Yours sincerely
Jacqueline H, Family and Friends!