

18<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Mr Ben Reynolds

Ms Claire Moore  
Chair  
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

By E-mail: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto: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 am deeply disturbed by the proposed legislation, which will make it impossible for women and families to choose to birth at home.

I am a father of five children, three children born at home. I have watched my wife give birth at home, surrounded by family and supported by a known midwife. I have seen how relaxed my wife is when she births at home compared with when she birthed at hospital. Our children were able to be at home and around for the birth of our last child only 11 weeks ago.

I know that for any future births, my wife will not birth at hospital unless medically necessary. We want to be able to where we birth and with whom. I urge you to reconsider the legislation to ensure that my wife, and women across Australia, is able to choose homebirth with the safety of an Independent Midwife.

Yours sincerely

Ben Reynolds