

16th July 2009

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Members

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

I write to you in regards to the above mentioned and would hereby like to present my submission.

I am concerned about the proposed legislation that will exclude indemnity insurance for private practicing Midwives, which in turn will make Homebirth an illegal option for upcoming births from July 2010.

As a Grandmother of four, I would like to see the proposed funding extended to Homebirth as I personally believe all women have a right to choose where they give birth, home or hospital. In many countries around the world, Homebirth is the norm and is encouraged for a variety of reasons.

Although Homebirth equates to 1% of all births in Australia, I'd hope this minority group won't be disadvantaged with the new legislation.

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Thank you very much for taking time to read my submission.

Kind regards,
Gladys Whitby.