

Marcia Stillwell



July 9th 2009

Ms Claire Moore
Chair

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee,

Dear Senator Moore,

Re - Inquiry into Health Legislation (Midwives & Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 & 2 related Bills.

I am writing to express my deep concern and dismay that birthing with an independent midwife may become illegal in July 2010. The recently proposed changes for hospital midwives are welcome and long overdue, but homebirth midwives are now being marginalized and left unsupported.

Homebirth midwives must be included in indemnity support from the government, or they will be unable to continue practising midwifery.

I work as a birth doula, and I also work in Palliative Care and I believe it is a basic human right to be able to choose to die, and give birth, at home.

All consumers should be treated equally and have the same access to funding and insurance.

Yours sincerely

Marcia Stillwell.

Doula & Bereavement Coordinator
&
mother of 4.