

20 July 2009
Kiera Perrott

Ms Claire Moore
Chair
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

By E-mail: 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 writing to request that the above legislation is modified to ensure that private midwives can continue to attend homebirths.

I gave birth to my first child in a planned homebirth last year, attended by a private midwife. I wanted a safe, natural birth so it was really important to me to be able to labour and birth in a place where I could relax, without fear of interruption, intrusion or intervention by people other than my chosen birth attendants, especially given the statistics on intervention rates in hospitals. After her natural and gentle birth, my daughter has been an easy-going, joyful baby. If I choose to have another child I hope to be able to once again choose how and where I give birth.

It is wonderful that the above 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, but please extend this to midwives in private practice who attend homebirths.

Yours sincerely

Kiera Perrott