

20 July 2009

From: Rosemary Outhred

To: Ms Claire Moore

Chair

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Dear Senator Moore,

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

Points to consider regarding this enquiry:

1_Continuity of care from a midwife is critical to a healthy pregnancy, delivery and post natal care both for a baby and it's mother. This is not offered in Australia unless a woman is close to a birthing centre or an independent midwife has been sought to assist.

2_Caesarians are performed unnecessarily early and are a major contributor to post traumatic stress, as was the case for me with the birth of my first child.

3_Quality, professional care that addresses the needs of each individual family is necessary to foster strong and caring parents for our future generation.

4_I believe that it's important for Australian women to have the option to have a baby at home assisted by a registered midwife.

5_I understand that the legislation as drafted would make this impossible. And I recommend appropriate changes to the legislation to allow homebirths with registered midwives in the future.

I agree to the Committee publishing this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary Outhred.