

Dear Sir/ Madam

I wish to add my voice to those who are dismayed that the proposed Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 will make it impossible for women to give birth at home with a qualified and insured midwife.

Women who are "low risk" and particularly those who have a history of very short labours should be able to choose to give birth at home.

All women should have the right to choose when and with whom they give birth.

Midwives should be able to choose to practice as homebirth midwives.

I urge you to make the necessary ammendments to the legislation to enable homebirths to continue in Australia as they do in all countries including US and UK.

Yours faithfully
Joan White