

>Dear Senator Moore and Senator Roxon,

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

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> I write to implore you to continue the registration of private professional midwives.

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>My first child was born at home 18 months ago under the professional care of two highly qualified and experienced midwives, Jennie Teskey and Seneca Cohen. The care my child and I received was excellent medically, physically and emotionally. This November we will again give birth accompanied by these two highly competent and wonderful practitioners.

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>I strongly believe women must have available the choice to birth where they feel happiest and accompanied by the team they choose. This is one of the the most important events in a family's life and has been so for millenia. For me it was not an event to be placed in the hands of strangers in a hospital system that has one of the highest birth intervention rates in the world.

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>Please see the wisdom in continuing having private midwifery services available. Numerous international studies have shown the safe high standard of care that can be offered by qualified experienced independent midwives.

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>Yours Sincerely,

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>Rowena Charnley - Shiatsu Therapist