

Dear Senator Moore

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

I write to express concern over the above bills which will, among other things, extend Medicare funding to cover midwifery. It is my understanding that homebirth has been excluded from the funding and indemnity arrangement proposed.

I believe that Australia needs to support the rights of women to choose homebirth and therefore should provide funds to cover a registered midwife for homebirth through the national health scheme. In doing so, Australia will be following in the footsteps of countries such as New Zealand, the U.K., Canada and The Netherlands.

Therefore, I ask that you take steps to include homebirth within the Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) and related Bills.

Homebirth is the preferred childbirth option for many women. These women should have equal access to funding and quality healthcare.

Yours sincerely

Tessa Dwyer