

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

I hereby register my concern in regards to these bills. I fully understand the Medicare funding and indemnity arrangement, access to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and professional indemnity premium support for midwives who provide care for women giving birth at hospital.

Medicare for midwifery care is long overdue; however, it is not acceptable to exclude home birth from this funding and indemnity arrangement. By this exclusion, Australia is out of step with other nations such as Canada, United Kingdom, The Netherlands and New Zealand. Therefore, this Bill will be Discriminatory against Australian women who choose to give birth in the security of their own home.

The intersection of this legislation with the national registration and accreditation of health professionals will prevent homebirthing midwives from registering. I ask that you take steps to include homebirths within the Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) and related Bills.

I believe the system should treat all consumers equally, with the same access to funding and insurance protection.

As an informed , healthy 38 year old female, my daughter, with much research into possible birthing situations, chose home as being safer, securer and emotionally stable place for her to be for the birth of her first child. With her chosen Independent qualified midwives in attendance, she experienced a joyous and personally rewarding home birth.

Certainly the Last law we require in Australia is one that takes away the individual's choice, and by so doing, creates a situation where homebirth with the assistance of trained professionals, is ILLEGAL.

I beg of you, as a fellow woman and a decision making Senator, to give families the final choice as to where and how the woman is to have her child.

Thank you for taking time to read my views and help us preserve the rights of other future mothers upon whom this nation depends.

Yours sincerely
Lorraine Adcock