

Amendment (Midwives & Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and two related Bills.

I write to express my support for Medicare funding for homebirth midwives and request that you include homebirths within the above mentioned Bills.

Three of my four children were born at home during the '80's. It is hard to over estimate the benefits that have flowed into the children's lives from these homebirths. It was made possible through the professional expertise and attendance of trained homebirth midwives, supported by a doctor prepared to support us all.

By contrast, it seems incredible to me that birth is becoming increasingly pathologised. The Caesarean rates soar, women's anxiety seems to be on the rise and the concept of natural birth under real threat.

Australia appears to be totally out of step with much saner birthing policies evident in the UK, Canada, The Netherlands and New Zealand. We live in a democracy – Families warrant the right to choose where and how they have their births and to do so at home needs to be a choice that is supported by the Government and the medical system.

This issue is of major concern for me and my family and would have a direct impact upon our voting patterns.

Please do consider the needs of many mothers and families who choose to have their births in the familiarity, security and natural environment of their own homes.

Please ensure that all women approaching birth have the same access to funding, and insurance protection. Please provide full support for home births.

Thanking you

Dr. Ian Gawler, OAM BVSc MCounsHC
Founder & Therapist
The Gawler Foundation