

Dear Senator Moore

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

My wife, Jodi, and I would like to express our concern about the above bills. Jodi is currently 6 months pregnant and after much research into the options for birthing we have found a local midwife who will support us to have a homebirth. Our decision was not taken lightly. We looked at a vast amount of literature and research, watched several DVDs promoting homebirth, and spoke to many mothers about their birthing experiences. It became clear that homebirth, offered the best of both worlds. We could have control over the environment and how we went about the birthing process, and we were reassured that our midwife would be very clear on when a hospital admission was advisable. We have been very impressed with the level of professionalism she has shown through our time with her and yet we still feel completely empowered. She has answered any of our questions and provided us with first class information on risks and useful considerations for birthing.

?

We feel that we are responsible parents and place a high value on having choice. The bills due to be passed will effectively take that choice away from us for our future children. We both feel that this is a grave mistake and would be extremely disappointed should the bills in their current form be passed. The United Kingdom, Canada, The Netherlands and New Zealand all offer mothers the choice by funding midwives; please place Australia in the same forward-thinking league as these nations.

?

?

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Calkin.