

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

*Re: Submission - Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and two related Bills*

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern at the inequity of the proposed Inquiry into Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and two related Bills.

My concern specifically is that if this bill is passed and becomes legislation in its current form, it effectively denies homebirth midwives both funding and professional indemnity insurance. The inequity, as I see it, is that private midwives with equivalent qualifications attending hospital based births, are able to access both indemnity insurance and funding.

I have, and will again in future, choose to birth at home for the simple reason that I believe birthing at home gives me the best chance of having a natural birth. I would be disappointed, worried and upset if at future births I was unable to be attended by a registered homebirth midwife.

I believe the Government should be equally concerned with the inequity of these proposed Bills and of the probable outcomes for homebirthing families. Women will continue to exercise their right to choose where, how and with whom they birth their babies. Whether or not they are able to make judicious choices to be supported by qualified professionals is yet to be determined.

Thankyou for considering this submission.

Sincerely,

Melanie Tasker