

Dear Senator Moore,

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

I write to express my concern about the above bills.

One year ago, my wife and I welcomed our daughter with the help of a midwife at Royal North Shore Hospital here in Sydney. While we had a wonderful experience in the hospital and greatly appreciate the Medicare system, we decided that for our next birth we would like to do it in the privacy of our own home by hiring a private midwife.

I am very disappointed in the choice to exclude homebirth from the funding and indemnity arrangement of this bill and hope that it is just an oversight. My wife is from the United States and since we both feel very strongly about having the option of a midwife assisted birth at home, we may be forced to return there for our second child. However backward the U.S. healthcare system may be, at least it gives women the right to choose how they give birth.

Please consider the rights of women and families in Australia in the processing of these bills.

Yours sincerely,

Andre Hayter