

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. I understand that these bills will enable Medicare funding, access to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and professional indemnity premium support for midwives providing care for women to give birth in hospital.

Medicare funding for midwifery care is long overdue. It is not acceptable however to exclude homebirth from this funding and indemnity arrangement. By doing this Australia is totally out of step with nations such as the United Kingdom, Canada, The Netherlands and New Zealand.

These nations support the rights of women to choose homebirth and fund a registered midwife through their national health scheme. In New Zealand and the U.K women have a legislative right to choose homebirth.

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

I support a system where all consumers are treated equally, with the same access to funding and the same insurance protection.

Please, Please, Please allow me, my daughters and others in the future the choice of where to birth our babies. I have given birth to two daughters one hospital birth with a group of midwives and one home birth. At my hospital birth I did not receive the knowledge required for my birth to have the outcome I desired. The midwives attending me either did not have the knowledge or choose not to pass it on. This was why I choose to birth with an independent midwife for my second child I needed to be sure I was birthing with someone who had the knowledge and experience to help me birth in the way I desired. After having such a beautiful birth experience at home with a knowledgeable, caring and experienced midwife I would definitely choose to birth any future children at home with an experienced and caring midwife. The care and knowledge she imparted to me regarding birth and the process of birth would never be replicated in a hospital setting. I always have some one I trust to turn to with any problems....sleeping, feeding,

behaviour etc even two years on from the birth, where else would I get this loving dedication and commitment from some one who knows me and my children?

Yours sincerely

Dawn Cargill