

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.

This legislation 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.

I have birthed my two children safely at home, both of these births where gentle, relaxed, blissful and healing. Birth is a sacred rite of passage, it should be a women's choice to birth where she feels safe and supported.

Homebirth with an independent midwife is an opportunity for women and families to experience birth in a safe, secure and relaxed environment.

This gentle way of birthing has many benefits for the community, such as; reduced medical intervention, which in turn leads to less draining of government funds, less post-natal depression, less fractured families, less dysfunctional people.

My experience of homebirth has been profound and empowering, it would be a sad day if other women where not given this opportunity.

I beg you to re-consider this bill, please include homebirth!

Yours sincerely

Anandavana Grace