

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.

My partner and myself are currently trying to conceive our second child. The first was born in a hospital. Not a pleasant experience doctor treating us like a piece of meat, looking and prodding. Leaving us with the feeling all they cared about was, how long we took and if we were going to sue if they did anything slightly wrong. Child birth is a very personal experience not a sickness that requires treatment from emotionless doctors.

Our second child will be born at home, we would love to have a Midwife present. A mid

wife that is aware of our preferences and is not frightened of connecting with us. The safety of mind having an experienced midwife present to let us know if things are not right and get us to hospital as quick as possible or simple to reassure us we are doing fine. A midwife that can communicate with the doctor easily without fear of persecution.

Our home is a safe, disease free environment. The hospital are overworked and lacking funds not mention disease .

Families will still home birth, how will your changes effect these people. Will they birth alone ? How will midwife operate without insurance.

I hope you can take into consideration the families that wish to home birth.

We are not sick we want to welcome our child into our life at home where we feel comfortable and safe with people we know and trust.

We hope you can reach a conclusion that will make everyone happy.

Thanks for taking time to read my letter

Adrian Ford