

Dear Senator Moore

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

After birthing 2 children naturally, (one at home unintended and one at the Family Birthing Centre at the Royal Womens, Melbourne) I was privileged enough to attend the home birth of a close friends baby daughter in 2008.

After seeing the benefits to both baby and parents, and the 'neutral footprint' left upon the Hospital System I implore you in a most heartfelt manner, to address this grave error that has occurred in the setting up of 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.

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privileged enough to attend the home birth of a close friends baby daughter in 2008.

After seeing the benefits to both baby and parents, and the 'neutral footprint' left upon the Hospital System I implore you in a most heartfelt manner, to address this grave error that has occurred in the setting up of this new legislation.

Yours sincerely

Jacinta Kitson