

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my concern over the Inquiry into Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and two related Bills. As I understand these new laws, it will mean that homebirth midwives are unable to register due to the requirement for professional indemnity.

I believe it is not in the public interest to prevent highly skilled midwives to practice, and a waiver or similar exemption should be included to allow homebirth midwives to register and practice until suitable affordable insurance is available.

I am a mother of two and sincerely want to be able to birth my next baby at home and employ an independent homebirth midwife. My choice to employ a midwife is not based on whether indemnity insurance is available to the midwife or not. If I was not able to access a registered homebirth midwife for my next pregnancy I would still choose to birth at home unless severe medical complications arose. I don't think I should be forced into a position where I have no other options but to birth without a midwife in attendance but that is what will happen unless changes are made to the proposed bills.

I would like a solution to be found to enable independent homebirth midwives to continue practising as registered midwives after July 2010 when national registration comes into place.