

Dear Ms Moore,

I am rather disturbed by this current proposed change to the legislation re midwives & nurses.

From time immemorial home births have been the natural birthing process. For a percentage of women with problems hospitals have been necessary for their well being but ,for the majority ,birthing is a natural process and many still prefer ,for a variety of reasons, to give birth in the privacy of their homes with the assistance of a midwife.

Midwives through the ages have acquired the reputation of being skilled practitioners and supportive advisors to the pre and post birthing mother. It is a personalised attention which develops confidence , teaches skills and addresses problems which may arise.

With the advancement of society these nurses have undergone extra training to become qualified midwives and are highly regarded in the communities they service. They are a small dedicated group which are now being punished by not being part of the government establishment.

Because their numbers are small they seem now to be having their rights taken from them. They are as qualified and dedicated as any midwife in a hospital and if the need arises do not hesitate to advise the mother to seek a doctor's advice and /or hospitalisation. It is so wrong that they will become de-registered and pushed outside the mid-wives board.

I know that insurance companies can not be forced to insure people and that this small group of home-birthing midwives are not looked on as being financially viable but they are an integral part of our way of life and should be protected. The government is prepared to indemnify those midwives working in hospitals why can't they extend this indemnity to home birthing mid wives?

How many actions have been brought against home birthing mid-wives? Not many ,and those that there are are mostly from doctors or hospitals who have to cover themselves and need someone to blame. The home- birthing midwife over the nine months builds up such a rapport with the mother-to-be that they work together as a team. There is no such bond in a hospital situation.

Being pushed outside the mid-wives board .they will be unable to gain insurance placing them in a very bad predicament. My daughter- in- law is a practising midwife and these law changes will effectively put her out of a job. Over the past 5 years she has built up a very satisfying business working in a rural area giving assistance to many "out of town" women . These women have deliberated over how and where they wish to give birth and have not made their decision lightly. Over 80% of them are professional people. The women she looks after do not want to go to a hospital unless absolutely necessary. Some have had bad experiences of hospitals.

Big news is always made if there is a bad result at a home birth but there are just as many , if not more, bad outcomes in hospitals.

It is essential these home-birthing midwives be able to obtain insurance and be covered by the same save guards as other midwives.

Many prospective mothers will NOT GO TO HOSPITAL, they absolutely refuse. These people will therefore try to do it on their own or resort to getting some un-registered person. We will then have real problems!

I therefore plead with you to do everything in your power to protect this small group of dedicated women and support them in their struggle to gain insurance and the job protection they deserve.

Sorry forgot to sign the first message.

Yours sincerely,
Marion Baker