

Ms Claire Moore  
Chair  
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

By E-mail: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Senator Moore

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

With my wonderful experience of a home birth seven months ago, I would see no reason not to have that option if I chose to have another child.

I was under the observation of my local G.P. who specialises in obstetrics and booked into my local hospital. I also had a private midwife, who would be at the birth at home or hospital. It really was a wonderful, safe empowering feeling to have all options opened and available. My baby was safe and I was relaxed with all the care I received.

The real bonus of having the option to birth at home for me is the flexibility with time. I felt under pressure at the thought of hospital procedures and time contrasts when it comes to birth. For example for every hour of labour you should dilate 1cm, or after two hours of pushing you should have delivered. Birth is a natural act and nature has not read the hospital procedure manual. We need to be as safe as possible; however birth has its own timing and having a private midwife at home gives one more scope to experience the natural unfolding without the pressure of time. Birth is one of our truly natural acts and to have the option of a home birth mandatory taken away is outrageous for me. If this bill was passed I would be tempted to birth illegally at home. I don't think I would be alone in this. Making homebirth to go underground is like living in the dark ages. This is what potentially could create problems.

This is my body, my baby and I am an educated, fit, healthy woman. I will choose where and how I birth, always putting safety first. If it safe for me to birth at home this is my first option, if not, how lucky we are to have hospital to help. Also I payed for this care myself, I don't have private health insurance. If I went to hospital this would cost taxes payer's money. Let's use this money for people who really need it.

Warm regards,  
Rachel Harmer