

To: 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**

**I support the inclusion of home birth midwives in the above legislation. I am also enquiring where lactation consultants fit into the new legislation.**

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.

**Could you please advise if this legislation also applies to lactation consultants who are in private practice? Many LC's visit mothers at home and are a valuable resource in assisting women who wish to breastfeed their babies, especially in the early weeks following hospital discharge.**

**I am an internationally accredited lactation consultant (IBCLC), and am not a midwife. I am a health professional. Will lactation consultants be included in the national registration and accreditation system of health professionals?**

Yours sincerely

Jan Mangleson IBCLC.