

Ms Helena Poropat

15 July 2009

Senator Moore
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation

By email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Moore,

RE: Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Inquiry into Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and two related bills

I am concerned at the *Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009*, the *Midwives Professional Indemnity (Commonwealth Contribution) Scheme Bill 2009* and the *Midwives Professional Indemnity (Runoff Cover Support Payment) Bill 2009*, which are currently the subject of an Inquiry by the Committee on Community Affairs.

Although the births of my two children were in hospital (labour ward, and birth centre), I write to entreat the committee to reconsider its plan to outlaw homebirthing by not extending indemnity support to midwives. Doing so could endanger mothers and their babies who may continue to plan homebirths without the right kind of support. Wouldn't you say that the small percentage of healthy women who do choose homebirth are saving the government and hospitals valuable resources and bed space for sick patients who really need medical care?

Australian women must all be entitled to the same Medicare support wherever they give birth, and midwives must all be entitled to obtain professional indemnity insurance wherever they work.

Yours sincerely

Helena Poropat