

15th July 2009

Grant Horsfall

Ms Claire Moore
Chair
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
By E-mail: 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

As a homebirthing family we already pay our own way with regards to engaging the services of an Independent Homebirth Midwife.

It might be nice for those that are already heavily subsidised to birth in the hospital system to receive even more benefits under Medicare, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and professional indemnity premium support that this legislation may offer.

HOWEVER - I strenuously request you come up with a way to do that without making homebirth with an Independent Midwife **ILLEGAL** in the process!

We are already paying our own way, with informed choice, please don't contribute to making homebirth as we know it illegal, or impossible. (ie in conjunction with the draft National Health Registration legislation scheduled to come into force in July 2010.)

Even if it were available, a mandatory insurance package for Independent Homebirth Midwives would likely come with so many restrictions that the resulting service would bear little resemblance to the "Gold Standard" of care currently available to us... at our cost.

I raise this on behalf of our unborn children, so that they may receive the continuity of care that our Independent Homebirth Midwife can provide, not just with one pregnancy, but across a whole family of them.

I am concerned about the right of my children & their children to have access to a planned natural unhindered homebirth, under control of their mother, with her chosen support. There may come a time when children seek recompense for the arbitrary deprivation of this birthright. (Professional indemnity insurance will not protect anyone then.)

Grant Horsfall