

Thursday, 23 July 2009

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**

As a mother of one child, potentially more in the future, AND a midwife who works in both a public hospital and in private practice, 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 by a known midwife. I have found these developments very exciting, but so SO disappointing when I read that it does not cover labour and birth at home. The births I have attended at home have been really amazing, safe experiences. Why should a woman have to pack up her bags and leave her home in the middle of labour to travel to somewhere she doesn't want to go. Some people equate hospitals with illness. Normal labour and birth is not an illness episode. A woman and her baby in good health must be able to choose where they birth with the care providers they choose.

It is not acceptable to exclude homebirth from this funding and indemnity arrangement

I support a system where all consumers and professionals are treated equally, with the same access to funding and the same insurance protection.

Yours sincerely

Kate Dawson  
BSc BN Post Grad Midwifery