

Ms Claire Moore
Chair Senate Community Affairs
Legislation Committee

Dear Senator Moore,

We are writing about the bills mentioned in the subject, which are under consideration.

While these make some great advances for midwives, there is an alarming outcome in the legislation which will make it illegal for homebirth midwives to practice.

Please amend the bills to give women full choice for birth - whether at home or at hospital. To do this means amending the bills to include homebirth midwives - giving them professional indemnity support the same as midwives delivering at a hospital. Else, homebirth will become illegal due to the intersection of the legislation with the national registration and accreditation of health professionals.

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

Especially since homebirth is such a profound, moving experience that results in better bonding with our children, resulting in healthier(mentally) children and a better society. That the Netherlands, UK, NZ etc are promoting homebirth or at least equal access, knowing it is positive for the community - costing the government less for one thing!

Thanks for listening,
Jonathan and Brigitte.