

Dear Senator Moore

\*Re: \*\*Inquiry into Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and two related Bills\*

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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.

Having been with my wife at a home birth, I am amazed that we are so close to losing something so special. We, as humans living in a normal world, should have the right to choose where we birth our children, these "little people" will one day rule our world, and if we can give them every helping hand we can, the world might just be a better place.

Putting aside hospital and government profits and costs ect, apparently only 1% of people homebirth, so it shouldn't cost that much to support midwives??? Please let us continue to have a choice, don't put us down and control our thoughts, as this is good for noone...

Thank you for your time,

Yours sincerely

Daniel James.