

FORUM BIRTH SWITZERLAND

Alternative information on pregnancy, birth and parenthood in German [www.forum-geburt.ch](http://www.forum-geburt.ch)

Let us be aware of our ability to create a new world (Michel Odent)

Our Aims:

- **The possibility to chose the where and how of the delivery**
- Promotion of conscience for the meaning of birth
- Natural women-, children- and family friendly birth, lying-in period and breastfeeding
- Information and exchange of experiences, to encourage women to accept more self responsibility
- Influence on social structures concerning health and hospital politics

17 of July 2009  
FORUM BIRTH  
Herrengasse 4  
CH 7000 Chur  
Switzerland

**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**

We write to express our 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.

**Also in Switzerland we can choose the way to give birth.**

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 **we ask that you take steps to include homebirth within the Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) and related Bills.**

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

**We ask You urgently to keep homebirth as a right of all women!**  
**To give to every woman the possibility to chose the where and how of the delivery**

Yours sincerely  
Ruth-Nunzia Preisig  
president of FORUM Birth Switzerland

