



20 July 2009
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
By E-mail: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Moore and Committee

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

We are a consumer group who strongly support women having access to all birthing options. As a group we have successfully lobbied for, and seen the building of, a birth centre for our community over the past 5 years which now provides one on one caseload midwifery care to families. We support a women's right to choose where and with whom she births.

We believe it is important for women to have all choices available. We are concerned about the proposed legislation which will effectively remove the option of homebirth with an independent homebirth midwife.

We believe homebirth needs to be included in Medicare funding and indemnity arrangements or if insurance is not available an exemption or waiver for independent midwives needs to be available to enable them to register and practice at homebirths until insurance is available.

Yours faithfully

Friends of the Birth Centre Townsville Committee
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'Supporting birthing families throughout the Townsville region'