

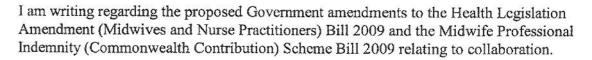
THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AGEING

16 DEC 2009

Senate Community
Affairs

Senator Claire Moore Suite 14B, 1st Floor Brunswick Central 421 Brunswick Street FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006

Dear Senator Moore ()



The Government's intention has always been to ensure that the Midwife and Nurse Practitioner reforms were underpinned by collaborative arrangements between health professionals.

The circulated amendments to the Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and the Midwife Professional Indemnity (Commonwealth Contribution) Scheme Bill 2009 were intended to clarify in legislation the collaborative intent that was articulated in the announcement of the Budget Package, in the introduction of the Bills to Parliament and in the Department's submission to the Senate's Community Legislation Affairs Committee inquiry into these Bills.

These amendments do not preclude a midwife having a collaborative arrangement with a hospital; however, I am advised that the hospital would need to nominate a medical practitioner(s), such as the head of obstetrics or the director of medical services, as being in a collaborative arrangement with the midwife. Accordingly, we intend to proceed with these changes.

However, after further consideration of the issues raised by stakeholders in relation to access to professional indemnity insurance and subsequent registration under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, I am persuaded that it is not necessary or desirable to proceed with the collaboration amendments to the Midwife Professional Indemnity (Commonwealth Contribution) Scheme Bill 2009.

I trust this information assists.

Yours sincerely

NICOLA ROXON

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