

11 December 2009

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Committee,

Re: Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009

Thank you for providing Southern Health the opportunity to comment to the committee on the **Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009**

Southern Health is concerned that the proposed changes to the definitions of the participating midwife, participating nurse practitioner, authorised midwife and authorised nurse practitioner in the Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 will have a detrimental impact on equity and access to health care of our community.

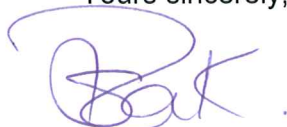
These proposed changes would have a significant impact on the ability of our midwives and nurse practitioners to deliver services to our community within the models of care that we have established.

These practitioners are Masters prepared, work autonomously and meet Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council competency guidelines.

Limiting of these practitioners access to Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme by enforcing collaboration with medical practitioners will restrict choice that is available through our current models of care in community, satellite and outreach services.

Southern Health has concerns that these changes would negatively impact on our patient outcomes and service delivery.

Yours sincerely,



Shelly Park
Chief Executive

Winner of the Premier's Award for Outstanding Metropolitan Health Service of the Year 2005

Monash Medical Centre,
Clayton
246 Clayton Road
Clayton
Tel: 9594 6666

Monash Medical Centre,
Moorabbin
Centre Road
East Bentleigh
Tel: 9928 8111

Kingston Centre
Warrigal Road
Cheltenham
Tel: 9265 1000

Dandenong Hospital
David Street
Dandenong
Tel: 9554 1000

Casey Hospital
Kangan Drive
Berwick
Tel: 8768 1200

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ABN 82 142 080 338