



**THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AGEING**

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



Dear Senator Moore

*Claire*

I am writing regarding the proposed Government amendments to the Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and the Midwife Professional Indemnity (Commonwealth Contribution) Scheme Bill 2009 relating to collaboration.

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**

**08 DEC 2009**