Exposure draft of Health Practitioner Regulation National Law 2009 (Bill B)

Kerry Kellaway
To NRAIP 16/7/09 02:22PM

To Whom It May Concern

I am sending this submission as I am strongly opposed to the introduction of the following legislation:

101 Conditions of registration
(1) If a National Board decides to register a person in the health profession for which the Board is established, the registration is subject to the following conditions:
(a) for a registered health practitioner other than a health practitioner who holds non-practising registration:
(i) that the registered health practitioner must complete the continuing professional development program required by the National Board, and
(ii) that the registered health practitioner must not practise the health profession unless professional indemnity insurance arrangements are in force in relation to the practitioner's practice of the profession,

Subdivision 6 General
148 Directing or inciting unprofessional conduct or professional misconduct
(1) A person must not direct or incite a registered health practitioner to do anything, in the course of the practitioner's practice of the health profession, that amounts to unprofessional conduct or professional misconduct.
Maximum penalty:
(a) in the case of an individual—$30,000, or
(b) in the case of a body corporate—$60,000.

These laws will limit my ability to hire the care provider of my choice and give birth in the safety of my own home, which I believe to be violation of my human rights.

New Zealand has a home birth rate of 12%. In Holland it is 30%. Australia should be following these countries and helping to increase home birth rates, not eradicate it altogether.

I suggest that an amendment be made to the legislation to include an exemption for Independent Midwives to require indemnity insurance, especially considering the fact that they have already been practicing without it for eight years with no ill effect.

Yours sincerely,
Kerry Kellaway