

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

Holly Meyer
to:
NRAIP
14/07/2009

To Whom It May Concern;

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

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.

I am deeply troubled by the introduction of the above legislation. I cannot believe in 2009 a country like ours is moving in a backwards direction by limiting women's choice in where and with whom they may birth their babies. Countries such as Holland and New Zealand have a much more supportive system in place for women to take the option of Homebirthing with an experienced Independent Midwife present. Surely it is in our best interest with an already crippled hospital system to further encourage this as a safe birthing option here too rather than making it illegal which will soon be the case if this goes ahead.

My first child was born safely at home under the care of an independent midwife, the child I am currently gestating will also be born safely at home under the watchful eye of my beautiful independent midwife. It kills me to think that my choice to birth my future children safely at home under the care of an independent midwife (the same that witnessed my first two children's births) would be taken away if the said legislation is passed. I consider this as a violation to my rights as a human being.

This not only effects me as a mother and as a woman but also as a professional. I have recently finished my midwifery studies (the 'right' way) to practice midwifery as an independent midwife in the comfort and safety of women's homes. I am now greatly upset that I have wasted 5 years of my life (and money) studying (Nursing and midwifery) for a piece of paper (my registration) that will only inhibit my passion and practice if this legislation is passed.

Please make the necessary amendments to ensure that the laws allow midwives to provide homebirth care after the new regulation system starts on 1 July 2010.

Yours sincerely

Holly Meyer
QLD.