

## **Response to proposal of Bill B - National registration for health practitioners**

Imogen Miller  
To NRAIP 16/7/09 08:15PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to the proposed Bill B relating to the National registration for health practitioners system including Midwives due to start on June 1st, 2010. I write with particular reference to the issue of home births in Australia. It is my understanding that due to the proposal of a new insurance scheme by the Federal midwives who offered their services as private practitioners in the community would not be eligible and this has a direct affect on women wanting a home birth. That is they would not be able to have a home birth and be transparent to other agencies or health services for fear of disciplinary action against the private midwife.

I have not had a home birth but 3 uncomplicated hospital births all with midwife assistance. I considered a home birth for my third child but felt the cost associated was not justifiable against my reasons for not wanting to go to the hospital when "push came to shove". At the time (9 months ago) the midwife I was in contact with was most excited at the prospect that she may, in future, be able to offer her services much cheaper and with the government support of insurance. So it is with disbelief that I read that not only will they not be covered but that private practicing midwives who assist in a home birth delivery are potentially subject to professional censure.

I would also like to say that although there are some in obstetric circles who believe those wanting home births are a vocal minority it is irrelevant to the discussion. Not only is it irrelevant but dangerous to those parents who attempt to birth at home without assistance but also the increased stress placed on hospitals and obstetric services who are already unable to handle the volume of births.

Please consider finding a way to allow home births to occur in our community, I beg you to consider the great importance of choice for women in the country and the babies that will come too.

Kind Regards  
Imogen Miller  
Victoria