

National Regulation of Health Practitioners

I am writing in relation to "Bill B", which requires all caregivers to be covered by professional indemnity insurance. I am not pleased that midwives in private practice who attend homebirths currently can't buy insurance in Australia, through no fault of their own.

I want the safest form of homebirth, with a registered midwife, to be available to me in the future and I would like you to find a way for midwives to be able to provide homebirth care after the new regulation system starts on 1 July 2010.

Please explore the following options:

- Provide professional indemnity insurance for homebirth care, with Commonwealth assistance. This is the only reasonable long-term outcome.
- A temporary arrangement within national regulation processes to allow homebirth care by eligible midwives until insurance can be sourced.

Sincerely

Mrs Cath Nohlmans