

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

Kerrie Noonan
to:
NRAIP
17/07/2009

To whom it may concern,

I have had a hospital birth and a homebirth and I writing this letter as a concerned woman who plans to have another baby next year.

I wish to draw attention to section 101 (ii) in which a registered health practitioner must not practise the health profession unless professional indemnity insurance arrangements are in force. Also to section 148 in which a person must not direct or incite a registered health practitioner that amounts to unprofessional conduct or professional misconduct, incurring penalties.

Registered homebirth midwives are not covered by indemnity insurance due to the small numbers practicing and therefore it is not viable to indemnify them. The introduction of this legislation means that homebirth midwives will no longer be legally allowed to practice midwifery without insurance.

This will prevent Independent Midwives attending to a women's birth in her home, as they have in the past. The proposed legislation, will limit my choices, and will effectively outlaw the professional practice of Independent Midwifery.

This not only affects me but every women in Australia who chooses to birth at home with a registered midwife.

This legislation will vastly limit a women's choice to birth where and with whom she chooses. This will force women into hospital systems that medicalise birth or to birth at home without the support of a qualified professional midwife of their choice.

Yours Sincerely

Kerrie Noonan