

Submission re: Exposure Draft

Natalie Scobie
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To whom it may concern,

I would like to submit that the following clauses in the exposure draft are unacceptable:

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.

If this draft is passed, independent midwives would no longer be legally able to attend homebirths, as currently there is no indemnity insurance available to them. These laws will limit women's ability to hire the care provider of her choice and give birth in the safety of her own home. Regardless of how, where and with whom a woman chooses to birth, she should always have the right to choose. These laws are discriminatory and I believe a violation of human rights.

Proposed solutions include:

1. An insurance exemption for midwives. Allow midwives to provide care at home without insurance until insurance can be secured.

2. Ensure that homebirth is included in the Government's plans to provide midwives with Medicare, indemnity and access to the PBS.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Natalie Scobie