

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

Isabel Snow  
to:  
NRAIP  
14/07/2009

I submit my serious objection to the following section of the Bill.

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,

As you would no doubt be aware, the clause I have underlined will effectively make home birth with an independent midwife illegal in Australia. Considering that there is no credible evidence for any problems with home birth as an option for women, and indeed that most advanced countries are actively promoting it, it is a gross violation of the rights of Australian women and families to legislate against it. It is ridiculous and completely unacceptable that women will be able to legally birth in a hospital, in a birthing centre or even at home unassisted, yet those who wish to birth at home with a midwife will not be allowed to do so.

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

Thank you

Isabel Snow  
(Mother of three home birthed children)  
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