

**Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council
National Registration and Accreditation Implementation Project
Exposure Draft – Health Practitioner Regulation National Law 2009**

Natalie Thompson
To NRAIP: 17/7/09 11:16PM

Re Independent (Homebirth) Midwifery

To whom it may concern

Although I am not a lawyer and am unfamiliar with the correct terminology, I am exercising my right to a political voice. I feel unfairly treated and wrongly done by.

I am deeply and personally effected by the draft law "Bill B" specifically 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.

In effect, this makes registered midwives unable to attend to woman birthing at home. This takes away the option that I feel is safest for me and my family.

This Bill is not written to directly outlaw homebirth, but still effectively does. One concerning aspect of this new law is that it is not based on evidence. There is no evidence to say that homebirth with qualified and registered midwives is dangerous. How many other laws and recommendations are made that are not based on evidence? How much faith can I and my peers put into a system that passes laws

Birth is arguably one of the most important moments in all our lives. It matters how our children are brought into this world. It matter that parents of Australia can choose how to birth their babies. It matters so much. Birth is not a medical event, except in the case of an emergency. Birth is empowering, normal and beautiful. Birth does not have to happen in a hospital, it can happen in the safety, warmth and love of a family home, with modern technology and skilled professionals to assist.

Is this what it feels like to be part of a minority group in Australia? A group that is denied basic human rights, the right to choose where and how to birth their baby. We live in a country that prides itself on building a fairer nation, where all Aussies are heard and listened to.

I urge you to review this Bill to ensure homebirth remains legal.

Yours Sincerely

Natalie Thompson
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