

Inquiry into AHPRA

I am a privately practicing midwife and I would like to express my concern that makes it extremely difficult to access the Eligibility criteria and other matters

As a professional health practitioner who has completed a review process (MPR) that has advised me that I am a competent midwife able to practice within my scope of practice throughout the continuum of childbirth. I have also completed many many hours of continuing professional development and I believe that this document should be enough to submit for Eligibility status.

The process has been long and arduous and as I am and have been working in private practice for the last five years it is not possible to obtain a midwifery managers reference (it assumes I work in a hospital). Also, the fact that my practice to obtain this status relies on a reference from an Obstetric practitioner who is not necessarily in line with my midwifery purpose or philosophy makes it difficult to obtain such a reference.

I also want to make reference to midwives that have had their practice curtailed until investigations have been completed, leaving them without income and unable to fulfill their duty of care that they have to their clients and their families. The investigations into these midwives need to occur in a prompt and efficient manner as the distress and loss of income are detrimental to their health and their clients wish to employ them. In many cases it is a case that they are treated as guilty until proven innocent and have to wait months if not years until their case goes to the board.

I would also appreciate that midwives in private practice have an opportunity to be reviewed by a clinically practicing midwife who has sound knowledge of midwifery private practice and the challenges that are faced by the midwives. To this end I would ask that careful consideration be given by this enquiry to ensure that there is a homebirth midwife allocated to the board in each state.

Yours Sincerely,
Nicola Dutton RM