

To the Finance and Public Administration Committee,

Re: Inquiry into the administration of health practitioner registration by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)

I wish to comment on the terms of reference as follows:

- (c) impact of AHPRA processes and administration on health practitioners, patients, hospitals and service providers; and
- (h) AHPRA's complaints handling processes;

I find the current complaint handling process of imposing restrictions on a health practitioner's registration after a complaint of any type has been lodge, *before* an investigation has been completed to be inappropriate. It is completely unjust to impose strict restrictions on a person's work and livelihood, before it has been investigated. This is a case of finding guilty until they are proven innocent.

I understand that it is AHPRA's role to protect the public. To do this, while still treating health practitioners with respect and maintaining their legal rights, AHPRA needs to define a list of serious complaints for which immediate restrictions to practice are instigated; serious complaints such as sexual misconduct or practicing while under the influence of intoxicating substances. Other complaints need to be investigated in a timely manner, without unduly penalising the health practitioner until a guilty finding is made, not beforehand.

As a pregnant woman who has employed the services of an independent midwife, I have grave concerns that at any time my midwife could find her registration under restriction and this would exclude her from continuing to be my main care provider. This will force me into the hospital system or to choose to free birth.

I request that an urgent review of the complaints handling process takes place immediately.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Amy Mann