

To whom it may concern,

I recently received a letter from your committee secretary regarding the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, specifically the recent exposure draft of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009* (known as Bill B).

The letter was not clear to me as to whether the default position was that all prior submissions would be considered as addressed unless they were re-submitted, or whether that was an opportunity instead to acknowledge any specific concerns that had been addressed in Bill B.

It has been acknowledged that the response from people who practice homebirth, either birthing or attending, has been very strong. Yet those sections of the legislation which concern us, namely the lack of provision for midwives to attend women who will homebirth and the threat of criminalisation should they do so, remain unmodified. This is absolutely unacceptable, and shows an alarming lack of concern for the process of public consultation. The lobbying power of a financially interested professional group should not overwhelm that of the women whose bodies are the subject of this debate.

I wish to state clearly that Bill B has done nothing to address my concerns regarding the proposed Scheme, and I include once again my original submission - in its entirety - for consideration by the committee, in addition to the comments in this letter.

Sincerely,
Siobhan Motherway