

Diane Leigh Longworth

29<sup>th</sup> April 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to make a submission to the enquiry about the National Health Professionals registration scheme.

I am a midwife in private practice. If the scheme goes ahead as planned and there is no professional indemnity product available for midwives, it means I will be effectively un-registerable, and unable to provide care to my clients. This also means that I will need to stop booking clients after September this year, as they will be due after the introduction of the scheme.

I am extremely concerned that this places midwives in private practice in a very difficult situation of continuing to support women who WILL chose to birth at home regardless of the status of their midwife. This will endanger women and babies. Additionally, this scheme could be seen as providing an unfair advantage to other health professionals who work in the hospital system, or private obstetricians who currently enjoy considerable financial support from the government, both through the rorting of the Medicare safety net, and through subsidised professional indemnity insurance. I'm sure this would also be of interest to the ACCC.

I implore you to look carefully at the requirement to obtain professional indemnity insurance as a pre requisite for registration for midwives, when no such product exists for those who provide a service to women outside of the hospital system.

Regards,  
Diane Leigh Longworth