

I have been a practising midwife in Australia for over 18years and in that time have worked in 3 States and 1 of the Territories, I feel that national registration is long overdue. My only concern however is that it has been identified that practitioners will be required to have their own professional indemnity insurance should they wish to practice midwifery in private capacity. Professional indemnity insurance has not been available to midwives in private practice for some years both at a local and international level. Current registration in Western Australia has included the word "may" prior to be required which enables midwives to continue to practice privately. I expect that if and when insurance became available then the Board would then require midwives to have this insurance. This I see as a sensible approach.

By requiring midwives to have professional indemnity insurance when it is not available means that they will no longer be able to practice privately, this has ramifications for not only the midwives who currently work in this area but also for the clients who use them. In the overall context of the provision of maternity services across this country private midwifery is a relatively small component of these services but plays a significant part in providing continuity of care and

In the end should the decision be made to include this requirement by way of legislation then the Federal government should do its utmost to provide/support some sort of professional indemnity package so as to enable midwives in private practice to continue their very special work.

I would be happy to be contacted for any further information.

regards

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Registered Midwife