

To Whom It May Concern;

re: Exposure draft of Health Practitioner Regulation National Law 2009 (Bill B)

I am sending this submission as I have concerns about the introduction of the following legislation:

101 Conditions of registration

(1) If a National Board decides to register a person in the health profession for which the Board is established, the registration is subject to the following conditions:

(a) for a registered health practitioner other than a health practitioner who holds non-practising registration:

(i) that the registered health practitioner must complete the continuing professional development program required by the National Board, and

(ii) that the registered health practitioner must not practise the health profession unless professional indemnity insurance arrangements are in force in relation to the practitioner's practice of the profession,

Subdivision 6 General

148 Directing or inciting unprofessional conduct or professional misconduct

(1) A person must not direct or incite a registered health practitioner to do anything, in the course of the practitioner's practice of the health profession, that amounts to unprofessional conduct or professional misconduct.

Maximum penalty:

(a) in the case of an individual—\$30,000, or

(b) in the case of a body corporate—\$60,000.

These laws will limit women in their rights to choose to birth where they like, with whom they like, and will make homebirth an illegal practice in this country.

Please make the necessary amendments to ensure that the laws allow midwives to provide homebirth care after the new regulation system starts on 1 July 2010.

Yours sincerely,
Tahne Brown