

13th April, 2011

Michelle Zimmerman,
60 Lurline St,
Katoomba. NSW. 2780

To whom it may concern,

The current situation by which Private Practising Midwives are being processed if there has been a complaint against them, is totally unacceptable and unethical. No conditions should be placed on any midwife before an investigation has taken place.

I have grave concerns that at any time a woman is left without a careprovider because her midwife could find her registration under restriction and exclude her from continuing her community service work. It will force women who choose to have a Private Midwife into the hospital system or choose free birth. This situation decries human rights and social justice. Please read the World Health Organization Declaration of Alma Ata, and the World Health Report, 2008, on comprehensive Primary Healthcare which advocates continuity models within the community. Private Midwives provide comprehensive primary maternity care and have excellent statistics because they provide holistic, women-centred, comprehensive and collaborative care within the women's social network and her community. Please also see the Maternity Service Interjurisdictional Committee of Australia, which was formed to facilitate primary maternity services throughout Australia for higher quality maternity care, due to the spiralling obstetric interventions, caesarean rates and consequent health costs, and adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes.

I request that an urgent review of this process takes place immediately and that some balance be resorted, because Midwifery, Primary Healthcare and Homebirth are not crimes.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Zimmerman RNRM