

13th April, 2011

To whom it may concern,

Re: Inquiry into the administration of health practitioner registration by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)

I am writing with grave concerns about the current process for private midwives when complaints are made against them. Right now many private midwives have received complaints and then have had conditions placed on them that restrict or completely stop their practice before the complaint has been investigated and found to be true or untrue.

My huge concern is in regards to my own midwife who ONLY works with home birth women and does not have a back up income within a hospital and does not want to work within the hospital system. If she had a complaint made against her there is a chance that the women she is supporting would be completely left without a midwife causing them to either choose to freebirth (when this was not their initial choice) or to birth within the hospital system that they deem was not appropriate for their needs (for myself this would be a highly traumatic outcome due to my past experiences of birthing in hospital).

I ask that you review the processes that surround private midwives in regards to complaints and that no private midwife has conditions placed on her practice or suspension be decided upon before the case is completely investigated and a final decision is made.

Yours truly,

Michelle McRitchie