

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

Submission - Prepared by Lyned Isaac on 9 April 2011.

Terms of Reference – In this submission I will be referring to the following points:

(c) impact of AHPRA processes and administration on health practitioners, patients, hospitals and service providers;

(f) liability for financial and economic loss incurred by health practitioners, patients and service providers resulting from any implications of the revised registration process;

(g) response times to individual registration enquiries;

(h) AHPRA's complaints handling processes;

I am writing this submission because the suspension of one of our most experienced local private practice midwife's registration directly affected birthing options for myself and others in my community. I am concerned that current complaints handling processes mean her services continue to be unavailable.

Referring to point (c) in the Terms of Reference above I would like to express my concern that it has taken over 10 months to investigate allegations made against our private practice midwife. During this time I was left for some months without care before I was able to find another midwife. Other women who were closer to term were forced to completely reconsider their birthing options at a crucial and vulnerable time. This situation has also put the midwife in question in an untenable situation of being left suspended without any time frame or recourse as no date for a hearing has been set.

Very few enquiries or questions made about this situation by members our community have been responded to – Point (g) and (h).

Referring to point (f) the midwife in question has not only had her career taken away, but her livelihood as well although no charges have been proven. This is an unjust and inefficient way to deal with complaints.

I am aware that the NMBA and AHPRA are very new and transitioning into the new governance role, and this change over to National Registration, may be partly to blame for some of the confusion, delays and incompetence, we have been experiencing – **Points (c) (f) (g) and (h)**

Lyned Isaac