

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees
PO Box 6100 Parliament
House Canberra ACT 2600

Tuesday, 12 April 2011

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

I am writing with concern as a consumer in regard to the manner in which AHPRA currently implements and administers the national registration of health practitioners. This process has been drawn to my attention as the result of the suspension of professional registration of an Independent midwife operating in the region in which I live.

The AHPRA (NMBA) have taken over 10 months to investigate allegations made against this midwife, within this time no hearing date has been set

This midwife was given no opportunity to be heard prior to the suspension of her registration

This midwife was provided no formal information regarding the nature of the allegations made against her.

Effectively this midwife had been denied any kind of procedural fairness. No resolution has been reached, which begs the question, is this a case of gross inefficiency and incompetence, or deliberate stalling?

This woman's livelihood has been indefinitely cut-off. The financial and emotional stress which such a situation would cause is unacceptable and deplorable in any circumstance.

The apparent mismanagement of this particular suspension and hearing process by NMBA/AHPRA has utterly amazed and outraged me, and raised serious questions in my mind as to the capacity of this organisation to fairly and professionally perform the mandate which they currently hold.

Sincerely