

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-104

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: MIDWIVES REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION

Hansard Page: CA 113

Senator Siewert asked:

What is the timeframe for completing the process for midwives registration and indemnity insurance exemption?

Answer:

Under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS), the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law) as set out in the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (Queensland) commenced on 1 July 2010 in most states and territories. The National Law has now commenced in all states and territories.

The National Law requires that all registered health professionals maintain appropriate professional indemnity insurance (PII) for their area of practice.

The National Law includes an exemption allowing privately practising midwives to provide home birthing services, without PII coverage for the provision of planned home birth services for a transitional period.

Regulation 29 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Regulation 2010* (the National Law Regulations), made by the Ministerial Council, sets the end of this transitional period at 30 June 2012.

The exemption applies where the midwife (amongst other requirements) adheres to any codes or guidelines approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (the Board) in relation to the provision of private midwifery services during home births.

A Safety and Quality Framework (the Framework) relating to private midwifery services has been developed by Victoria and the Board is in the final consultation stages of developing the Framework to be approved as a relevant code or guideline. Final guidelines will be agreed after the consultations have been completed.