



MEDIA RELEASE
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Government action on midwifery practice welcomed by the professions

The Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) has welcomed the release of a SA Health paper proposing to regulate midwifery practice in SA.

"We have been lobbying for this legislative change for some time" said Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars, ANMF (SA Branch).

"We along with many other South Australians have been deeply saddened and concerned by recent events that have been before the coroner."

"However we would urge the government to consider going further by including the practice definition in the national health practitioner's laws so that the Nursing Midwifery Board of Australia would be able to regulate, investigate and discipline people who engage in improper or unprofessional practice or conduct.

"A change in the national law that regulated midwifery practice would offer greater protection by ensuring that people who practice midwifery or provide midwifery services will be appropriately qualified, comply with a code of conduct and code of ethics and importantly, meet the standards expected by professionals offering such an important service".

This would also have the added benefit of controlling cross border flow of staff and service providers and provide the basis for a consistent national approach to this critical issue for women and babies.

"However the approach set out in the discussion paper is a step in the right direction and we will continue to advocate for further improvements in this area.

"We will also continue to advocate to ensure women have birthing choices. This includes home-birthing services, which are safe and satisfying for uncomplicated births."

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