

Professional Indemnity Insurance for Privately Practising Midwives

On 5 May 2010, on International Midwives Day, the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon. Nicola Roxon, MP, announced that the Government has signed a contract to provide Commonwealth-supported professional indemnity insurance for midwives. The insurance will be provided by Medical Insurance Group Australia, which has been selected following a competitive tender process.

This is the first time since 2002 that privately practising midwives will be able to purchase their own professional indemnity insurance.

This insurance arrangement will help midwives who wish to provide high quality midwifery services to Australian women as part of a collaborative team with doctors and other health professionals. It will not cover services provided during home births.

The insurance will take effect from 1 July 2010, to coincide with the commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health practitioners. Under the Scheme, midwives, like all other health practitioners, must not practise their profession unless appropriate professional indemnity insurance arrangements are in force.

This insurance is a key part of the \$120 million package of maternity reform measures the Government announced in the Budget in May 2009 to improve choice and support for Australian mothers, which also includes access for midwives' patients to Medicare benefits and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

More information:

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