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**Professional Indemnity Insurance for Private Midwives Within the ACT: Pilot Program**

**Poster Presentation**

In Australia, privately practicing midwives are at constant risk of litigation as there is no insurance product that covers them for intrapartum care at home. Research indicates that midwives without access to indemnity insurance are more likely to increase their use of defensive practices. When facing litigation midwives are more likely to report a decrease in self-confidence, self-worth and experience ill health. These outcomes decrease the number of practicing private midwives in the workforce and negatively impact the quality of midwifery care that childbearing women receive. Research has shown that the typical home birth in Australia costs $4802.00 compared to $5463.00 for the woman to receive the same clinical care within a hospital setting.

 The purpose of this project is to increase the support for privately practicing midwives in the ACT. It is proposed that a three-year pilot program be implemented which includes an insurance product for intrapartum care provision for appropriately endorsed midwives. To evaluate the effectiveness of the program, maternal and neonatal outcome measures, a cost-benefit analysis and satisfaction survey will be conducted at two time points, 18 months and 3 years. If this program proves to be effective, it could be expanded Australia wide. Private midwives will be encouraged to practice, knowing they are not in financial danger if they were to be involved in litigation and this increases womens’ options for care.

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