To: Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority,

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing as a mother who has had 1 homebirth with a private midwife and a backup midwife.

I support creating a separate regulatory board for midwives in Australia. I understand that currently there is a Nursing and Midwifery combined board and that midwives in private practice have matters regarding their practice assessed and judged by a panel which may not include a currently practicing midwife, let alone one who understands homebirth midwifery.

I believe it is fair and proper for midwives to have a separate board to govern their own profession and that Midwifery and Nursing are separate professions.

I think this would also be in the best interest of women who employ or use the services of midwives, as midwives who practice midwifery and understand midwives would be regulating the profession.

I also believe the board should include “consumer” members: women who have used the services of a midwife. Including consumer members fits with the philosophy of midwifery as a profession in partnership with midwives.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Purvey