



Information for women and families about midwifery indemnity insurance

31 October 2023

What you need to know

On 17 October 2023, the Department of Health and Aged Care became aware of a gap in professional indemnity insurance cover for labour care provided by private midwives outside of a hospital setting.

What this means for women and families

- Antenatal care is not affected by this issue. Continue your pregnancy care with your midwife and talk to them about your labour and birthing plans.
- If you are planning to give birth in hospital with a private midwife, they will not be able to provide labour care outside of hospital and you may be asked to attend hospital sooner than planned.
- Your midwife will still be able to take calls from you about your pregnancy care and may agree to visit you at home to determine if your labour has begun. Once your midwife determines labour has started, any care will need to be given in hospital.
- Planned homebirths with the support of a privately practising midwife are not affected.

How the Department is responding

To resolve the issue as soon as possible, the Department is urgently investigating options to extend professional indemnity insurance for labour care outside of a hospital setting.

The department understands the significance of this issue and is working with all parties to find a solution as quickly as possible.

A resolution will ensure that more women can access the care and support of their chosen midwife in those important hours before birth.

We understand this may disrupt birth plans of expectant parents during a highly emotional and significant time, and that the disruption may cause concern. For many midwives and pregnant women, continuity of care with a known midwife is incredibly important. We will continue to work to make sure that this is accessible and supported.

Where to find more information

Please reach out to your midwife with any questions about how this might impact your birthing plan.

The Department will publish further updates on [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au) as they become available.