

In support of abortion law reform and a more compassionate healthcare system

To all members of New South Wales Parliament,

As organisations and services working for the health, safety, rights, and well-being of members of the NSW community, we strongly support the passage of the *Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019*.

At its core, this Bill is about supporting women and pregnant people's autonomy, dignity and wellbeing.

A woman knows what makes sense for her health, her body and her future. She should be enabled to control her healthcare decisions. Health professionals must be able to provide their patients with the best care possible, without fear of criminal charges.

NSW's current abortion laws – written back in 1900 – are archaic, cruel and degrading. Their threat of criminal charges has a chilling effect on health professionals' willingness to provide abortion care on a daily basis, and leads to huge gaps in service access across the state. They create unacceptable barriers to healthcare access; and in doing so increase the distress, delay and financial burden faced by someone who needs to end a pregnancy.

This broken system disproportionately harms women living in rural and remote areas, who already have limited access to healthcare, as well as women affected by physical and sexual violence, and other vulnerable members of our community.

We write to record our strong and united support for the *Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019* as a strong framework for safe, legal and compassionate access to abortion care.

As the Members of Parliament who will determine whether or not this Bill becomes law, we urge you to be on the right side of history, and vote yes for a more compassionate healthcare system in New South Wales.

Signed,

1. Amnesty International Australia
2. Australian Association of Social Workers
3. Australian College of Nursing
4. Australian Lawyers' Alliance
5. Australian Lawyers for Human Rights
6. Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association

7. Australian Women's Health Network
8. Central Coast Community Legal Centre
9. Central Coast Community Women's Health Centre
10. Centre for Leadership for Women Australia
11. Children by Choice
12. Clinic 66
13. Coffs Harbour Women's Health Centre
14. Community Legal Centres NSW
15. Domestic Violence NSW
16. Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre
17. Fair Agenda
18. Family Planning Alliance Australia
19. Family Planning NSW
20. Family Planning Tasmania
21. Family Planning Victoria
22. Far West Community Legal Centre
23. fEMPOWER Workshops
24. The Full Stop Foundation
25. Human Rights Law Centre
26. Illawarra Legal Centre
27. Illawarra Women's Health Centre
28. Immigration Advice & Rights Centre
29. Inner City Legal Centre
30. International Planned Parenthood Federation
31. Kingsford Legal Centre
32. Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre
33. Marie Stopes Australia
34. Maurice Blackburn Lawyers
35. Mid North Coast Community Legal Centre
36. National Foundation for Australian Women
37. National Older Women's Network, Australia Inc
38. NCOSS
39. Northern Rivers Women and Children's Services Inc. Lismore Women's Health and Resource Centre
40. NSW Council for Civil Liberties
41. NSW Pro-Choice Alliance
42. Our Bodies Our Choices
43. Penrith Women's Health Centre
44. Pro Choice NSW
45. Pro Choice Tasmania
46. Public Health Association of Australia NSW Branch
47. Public Interest Advocacy Centre
48. Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia
49. Rationalist Association of NSW Inc.

50. Rationalist Society of Australia
51. Reproductive Choice Australia
52. Sexual Health Quarters (Family Planning Western Australia)
53. Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre
54. Shoalhaven Women's Health Centre
55. Sydney Women's Counselling Centre
56. The Animal Defender's Office
57. The Rationalist Association of NSW Inc.
58. True Relationships and Reproductive Health (Family Planning QLD)
59. Waminda – South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation
60. Western NSW Community Legal Centre Inc
61. White Ribbon Australia
62. The Women Barristers Forum
63. Women's Electoral Lobby
64. Women's Health NSW
65. Women in Adult and Vocational Education (WAVE)
66. Women Lawyers' Association NSW
67. Women's Legal Services NSW
68. Women's March Sydney
69. Women's Safety NSW (formerly WDVCS)
70. Youth Action NSW