

MEDIA RELEASE

ABORTION IS HEALTHCARE - INTERNATIONAL SAFE ABORTION DAY

The 28th of September is International Safe Abortion Day. The 2019 theme is Abortion is Healthcare #MyAbortionMyHealth.

As Australia moves closer to accessible, safe and legal abortion services particularly after decriminalisation in NSW this week, Children by Choice recognises that not all women and pregnant people across our nation or Internationally have a service they can access.

On this day Children by Choice and other advocacy groups across 80+ countries are working together to honour the work of health care providers, community and women's health services and all those who work to provide abortion care in their communities.

"One in four pregnancies ends in an induced abortion worldwide and while abortion is one of the safest medical procedures in Australia, half of all abortions internationally are still unsafe" says Holly Brennan OAM, Manager of Children by Choice. "Australian's trust pregnant people to make health care decisions. We know, and the evidence shows us, that when we have access to legal, safe equitable services and information we all do our best" says Ms Brennan.

Internationally there are 25 million unsafe abortions each year and seven million women and girls end up in hospital needing treatment for complications of unsafe abortion. There are also millions of women and girls around the world who are forced to continue a pregnancy and birth without choice or support related to an unplanned pregnancy.

"We recognise that Australia is one country within a global movement towards sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice. Australian aid must resource sexual and reproductive health care and work to combat these distressing statistics" states Ms Brennan "Abortion is part of women's lives. Safe abortion is necessary for equality."

Children by Choice celebrates the work of individuals and organisations to facilitate safe, free and legal abortion access in Queensland, around Australia and Internationally. "When access to safe, legal abortion is universal, unsafe abortions and the stories of lost women's lives will become a thing of the past."

Children by Choice is an independent non profit organisation, committed to providing information, counselling and referrals for all unplanned pregnancy options – abortion, adoption and parenting. Founded almost 50 years ago, we work to advance Queenslanders' reproductive choices and to improve equitable access to abortion.

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