

MEDIA RELEASE

CHILDREN BY CHOICE SUPPORTS DECRIMINALISATION OF ABORTION IN NSW

Since the removal of abortion from the Queensland criminal code Children by Choice has seen progressively better health outcomes for our clients. Ease and equity of access to termination of pregnancy services is improving, relieving many women and pregnant people from financial, social and geographical stresses that should not be associated with accessing basic healthcare.

All Australian women and pregnant people deserve the right to reproductive autonomy. New South Wales is one of the last jurisdictions in Australia to reform their abortion laws – these archaic laws criminalise women, pregnant people and their doctors.

Daile Kelleher, Manager of Children by Choice commented: "Children by Choice has seen an improvement to access and equity in termination of pregnancy services after the legalisation of abortion in Queensland in 2018."

"We strongly urge NSW MP's to listen to the overwhelming public support for abortion to be treated as a health matter and not a criminal one. It's 2019 and archaic legislation is affecting vulnerable and disadvantaged women from seeking a safe and common medical procedure. It's time to show leadership and make a change."

"We hope to see NSW follow other jurisdictions in Australia and not be the only state who leaves women behind."

Children by Choice is an independent Brisbane-based non-profit organisation, committed to providing unbiased information, counselling and referrals for all unplanned pregnancy options – abortion, adoption and parenting. We also provide sexuality education to young people and professional development training for health and community sector professionals. Founded almost 50 years ago, we work to advance Queenslanders' reproductive choices, and to improve access to safe and legal abortion.

Daile Kelleher is available for media comment: 07 3357 9933