**MEDIA RELEASE**

**AUSTRALIAN STATEMENT ON ROE V WADE AND ABORTION ACCESS IN AUSTRALIA**

Over 100 Australian organisations and individuals have signed on to a statement voicing their support for reproductive rights and access to legal, safe, timely and compassionate abortion.

With news out of the United States that the law protecting abortion rights, Roe v Wade, is in danger of being overturned, Australian organisations, doctors and health professionals, advocates, and concerned individuals have signed a joint statement supporting access to legal, safe, timely and compassionate abortion care as essential healthcare.

Evidenced by the organisations and individuals support of the Australian Statement on Roe v Wade, the signatories stand in solidarity with healthcare professionals who provide abortion care and in solidarity with every person who has accessed an abortion, or may need to in the future.

The signatories support access to legal, safe, timely, compassionate healthcare and protections for reproductive rights in conjunction with supporting bodily autonomy and reproductive justice.

Children by Choice CEO and advocate for reproductive rights in Australia, Daile Kelleher says “it is concerning to hear news from the US that overturning Roe v Wade would see abortion criminalised and put at risk abortion seekers and providers. Any action to go backwards in reproductive rights is against the global trend of making access to abortion easier and more secure.”

“We need measures to protect reproductive rights here in Australia and need leadership from our government.

“A pregnant persons right to abortion care should not be determined by their postcode, or how their government has implemented legal healthcare within public health systems. We need leadership from state, territory and federal government to embed this essential reproductive healthcare into our public health services.

“Legal and accessible termination of pregnancy care is in line with community expectation in Australia and we call on governments to confirm their commitment to abortion as legal healthcare by appropriately resourcing and supporting access to abortion services across Australia.”

It is estimated that half of all pregnancies in Australia are unplanned and that half of those are terminated [[1]](https://www.childrenbychoice.org.au/factsandfigures/australian-abortion-statistics#r1); also that between one quarter and one third of Australian women will experience an abortion in their lifetime [[2]](https://www.childrenbychoice.org.au/resources-statistics/papers-reports/abortion-rates-in-australia/#r2).

Any barriers to accessing abortion impacts most heavily on those who already face barriers to accessing healthcare: women experiencing domestic and family violence, coercive control or reproductive coercion, First Nations women and women of colour, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, migrants and refugees, young women and women with disabilities.

*The Australian Statement on Roe v Wade and its signatories are attached*

**Daile Kelleher is available for media comment**: 0409 625 189