



CHILDREN BY CHOICE
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

MEDIA RELEASE

**CHILDREN BY CHOICE CALLS
FOR IMPROVED ACCESS TO
ABORTION AT THEIR
REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND
ABORTION CONFERENCE**

2nd August 2024

Brisbane, QLD – Children by Choice is proud to announce their upcoming **Reproductive Rights and Abortion Conference 2024**, set to take place next week under the theme, "Action for Access."

Held over on the 8th and 9th August 2024, the event is a landmark for bringing together so many dedicated people committed to improving health and wellbeing outcomes for Queensland women and pregnant people. It is the only national conference with a focus on reproductive rights in Australia.

This conference will underscore the critical importance of accessible, compassionate abortion and reproductive healthcare across Australia, bringing together the most experienced and talented professionals, including doctors, researchers, nurses, midwives, and social workers, to collaborate and improve reproductive health services for Queensland women and pregnant people.

Keynote speakers will include prominent voices in the field of reproductive health:

- **Dr Carol Portmann**, a respected expert in reproductive justice who is a private obstetrician and gynaecologist specialising in Maternal Fetal Medicine, as well as a proud Christian woman who performs medical and surgical abortion in Queensland.
- **Isabelle Oderberg**, an acclaimed journalist and author of *Hard to Bear* on the silence and science of miscarriage and women's health.
- **Madison Griffiths**, a well-known artist, writer, activist and author of *Tissue*, a boldly poetic exploration of the experience of abortion what it represents for women.
- **Alyce Nelligan**, a community advocate, political activist, artist and proud disabled person who is a champion for inclusive healthcare.
- A distinguished panel of **First Nations health workers from Far North Queensland**, who will share their unique perspectives and insights on improving access to reproductive healthcare in their communities.

This conference marks the first major gathering since the recent expansion of prescribing rights for medication abortion, which now includes nurse practitioners, midwives, and Aboriginal Health Workers. This significant change has far-reaching implications for improving access to safe and effective abortion services across the state.

"Jill McKay, CEO of Children by Choice, emphasised the significance of this conference in the current socio-political climate:

"It is imperative for Queenslanders that we continue to improve access to abortion, especially as we approach the 2024 Queensland state election and beyond. We must protect and expand access to ensure that Queensland does not revert to restrictive ideologies, like those currently unfolding in the United States.

While decriminalisation was an important step in 2018, public access across Queensland has been challenging. With the Termination of Pregnancy Action Plan 2032 from Queensland Health, there is a real possibility of acting for access right now.

This conference is a crucial step in bringing together the expertise and dedication needed to safeguard and enhance reproductive rights for all Queenslanders, and right across Australia."

The "Action for Access" theme reflects the ongoing commitment to not only maintain but also advance the availability and quality of abortion services. By uniting top professionals in the field, the conference aims to foster innovative solutions and share best practices that will benefit women and pregnant people across Queensland.

Children by Choice invites all stakeholders, advocates, and community members to join this vital conversation and collaborate in our shared mission to protect and improve reproductive health access.



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