



CHILDREN BY CHOICE
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

MEDIA RELEASE

CANDIDATE RESPONSES ON SAFE ABORTION ACCESS IN QUEENSLAND

28th September 2024

Children by Choice has released responses to a request of all candidates' in Queensland to make a commitment to safe and legal abortion access, and is urging all Queenslanders to make their voices heard on this important issue ahead of the state election on October 26, 2024.

The responses can be found [here](#).

"With abortion finally decriminalised and legalised in Queensland just six years ago (in 2018), many people still face barriers to safe, local abortion services" said Children by Choice CEO Jill McKay. "The future of safe reproductive choices in Queensland hinges on the planned ongoing improvements and actions in Queensland Health's Women and Girls Strategy 2032.

"That's why we're urging all Queenslanders to be informed about the pledges made by their local candidates, and to contact those who have not already made a pledge to publicly commit to simple, safe and accessible abortion services."

Children by Choice is urging all Queenslanders to observe the pledges from candidates they have received and to contact their local candidates and ask them, if they have not already, to publicly commit to simple, safe, and accessible abortion services.

Children by Choice received responses from parties, such as:

- **Liberal National Party (LNP):** No firm commitment to abortion access has been provided yet. The LNP has pledged to respond to our correspondence by October 11.
- **Labor Party (ALP):** Labor has reaffirmed its strong commitment to upholding and expanding abortion access in Queensland, with \$41 million invested into removing barriers to services and improving access across the state through Queensland Health's Termination of Pregnancy Action Plan.
- **Queensland Greens:** The Greens have pledged their unequivocal support for free and universal access to abortion services, advocating for the removal of all financial barriers and ensuring publicly funded hospitals provide comprehensive reproductive healthcare.

Why Abortion Access is Fundamental

Queenslanders legalised and decriminalised abortion in a landslide conscious vote in 2018. Barriers to public access has remained, and access to abortion is healthcare and it is a fundamental human right. The decision to terminate a

pregnancy is deeply personal, and individuals must have the freedom to make that choice without undue hardship, inequity or obstacles.

In 2018, Queensland decriminalised abortion, positioning it where it belongs—within the healthcare system. However, significant barriers remain for many, especially in rural and remote communities, and for those without Medicare or facing financial difficulties.

We believe abortion must be:

- **Safe:** Provided by trained health practitioners.
- **Legal:** Guaranteed as a protected right under Queensland law.
- **Accessible:** Available across the state, including in rural and remote areas, without financial or logistical obstacles.

Abortion access is a critical component of sexual and reproductive healthcare. It ensures that all pregnant people, regardless of their circumstances, can control their own bodies and futures. As we move toward the state election, it is more important than ever that all parties clearly state their positions on this fundamental issue.

We are urging Queenslanders to reach out to their local MPs and candidates to ask them two simple questions:

- **Will you commit to ensuring accessible abortion services for all Queenslanders?**
- **How will ensure we do not erode hard won health access for women and pregnant people?**

“For over 50 years, Children by Choice has stood alongside women and pregnant people, supported by a diverse community from across all political affiliations, religions, and backgrounds. This diversity highlights one core truth: **reproductive rights are human rights**. After 46 years of tireless advocacy, we celebrated the **decriminalisation of abortion in 2018**, removing it from the criminal code and affirming it as a healthcare issue. However, our vigilance continues, as access to safe and timely abortion in Queensland still needs improvement. We are **understandably anxious to protect this hard-won access**, and we will keep delivering services to pregnant people, educating, advocating, and challenging to ensure **equal access to abortion for all**” said CEO Jill McKay. “We remain committed to ensuring it remains protected, accessible and expanded across our state.”



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