



CHILDREN BY CHOICE
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

MEDIA RELEASE

FUNDING BOOST FOR CHILDREN BY CHOICE'S CRUCIAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY SUPPORT SERVICES

5th July 2024

Children by Choice is proud to announce it has been awarded an \$8 million funding boost to by the Queensland Miles Government. Children by Choice is a Queensland-based non-government organisation dedicated to providing termination of pregnancy support services. This funding is part of the government's \$41.8 million investment to support more equitable access to termination of pregnancy and is a crucial step towards ensuring the health and safety of Queensland women and pregnant people.

Key Points:

- Children by Choice will receive \$8 million over the next four years to offer information on evidence-based pregnancy options, counselling, and timely referral services.
- This funding is part of the Termination of Pregnancy Action Plan 2032, under the Miles Labor Government's \$1 billion Women and Girls' Health Strategy 2032.

Quotes Attributable to Jill McKay, CEO of Children by Choice:

"Securing this funding is essential and transformative for healthcare in Queensland. It will allow us to ensure that every pregnant person has the chance to engage in meaningful conversations about their pregnancy options, support, and counselling. This milestone is only possible through the vision of Premier Steven Miles, Minister Shannon Fentiman, and the years of advocacy by so many to improve access since decriminalisation in 2018."

"All people should be able to freely and safely make their own sexual and reproductive health choices without barriers."

"The decriminalisation of abortion was a landmark moment in Queensland history and correctly acknowledges that abortion is a healthcare issue."

"Despite this, the community still experience barriers to accessing this important healthcare. "Children by Choice is so pleased to see the Queensland Government has made a clear commitment, backed by significant investment, to support more equitable access to abortion."

"We are incredibly grateful to the Miles Government for this significant investment. It reflects their commitment to prioritising the health and safety of Queensland women and pregnant people. Dynamic community organisations like ours play a critical role in ensuring that safety and wellbeing are at the forefront of healthcare services."

"Every day we talk to Queensland pregnant people who are trying to understand all their pregnancy choices. People are struggling to understand where and how to access termination of pregnancy, if that's their choice. Each decision is different, and Children by Choice is committed to supporting the diversity of people's pregnancy experiences, decisions and choice. We always strive to be as responsive as possible, but this grant will ensure we are able to respond when people need us."

"The grant is well targeted too, providing Children by Choice the resources to work alongside Queensland Health and their dedicated workforce, to deliver the best possible reproductive care, something that affects every Queenslanders across the lifetime."

"The vast majority of Queenslanders know that pregnancy choice is a regular part of healthcare. However access to abortion has remained challenging in the public and private system, especially in a state that has the tyranny of distance. This is a clear commitment by the Miles government again, to put the human rights and healthcare of pregnant people, and a direct example of their ongoing dedication to all paths that help Queensland towards true gender equality."

"At Children by Choice, we are eager to work with Queensland Health's healthcare professionals to provide the best support possible to Queenslanders. This funding will help us continue to offer compassionate, evidence-based care and ensure that every pregnant person has access to the resources they need, with accessible abortion as one of their choices. Our support services will wrap around the workforce of Queensland Health linking community to public access."

"Children by Choice wants to see abortion de-stigmatised and Queenslanders accessing healthy and safe lives. This grant means we are able to be part of that."



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