

MEDIA RELEASE

CHILDREN BY CHOICE DEMANDS CLEAR COMMITMENT FROM LNP TO STAND AGAINST KAP'S PLAN TO REPEAL ABORTION ACCESS LAWS

9th October 2024



Children by Choice, Queensland's leading pro-choice advocacy organisation, is urgently calling on all Liberal National Party (LNP) candidates to publicly commit to protecting women's access to abortion, in light of Robbie Katter's announcement that the Katter's Australian Party (KAP) intends to introduce a bill to repeal Queensland's abortion laws in the next Parliament.

While LNP leader David Crisafulli has indicated that the party won't address abortion in its first term if elected, the issue became more urgent yesterday with Katter's Australia Party and One Nation vowing to introduce a bill to recriminalise abortion in the next parliamentary term.

Katter's proposal to dismantle the Termination of Pregnancy Act, which was passed in 2018, directly threatens the reproductive rights of women and pregnant people across the state. This puts the issue at the forefront of the current election. The LNP's unwillingness to provide a categorical stance on this issue only deepens concerns. Without a clear commitment to opposing Katter's repeal efforts, voters are left questioning whether the LNP will defend hard-won reproductive rights or quietly allow them to be eroded.

Jill McKay, CEO of Children by Choice, stressed the importance of transparency from the LNP:

"Robbie Katter's plan to repeal abortion access laws is a wake-up call for Queenslanders. We need to hear from the LNP, without ambiguity, that they will oppose any attempt to wind back abortion access in our state. The time for vague statements has passed. Crisafulli's suggestion that abortion is 'too sensitive' to talk about is a distraction—it's not about sensitivity for the LNP, it's about political convenience. What's truly sensitive are the deeply personal decisions women and pregnant people make about their pregnancies, which is exactly why we need to hear a categorical commitment from the LNP to protect their rights, now and into the future."

While LNP leader David Crisafulli has indicated the party would not address abortion in its first term if elected, this falls far short of the clear assurances Queensland women and pregnant people deserve. With many LNP candidates known to oppose abortion, their silence raises serious doubts about their commitment to maintaining access to reproductive healthcare.

McKay continued:

"The LNP's reluctance to address this issue head-on only adds to the



uncertainty. Queenslanders deserve to know: will the LNP stand with women and pregnant people, or will they remain silent and allow figures like Robbie Katter to roll back our healthcare rights? If the LNP cannot explicitly commit to supporting abortion access, we have no choice but to assume the worst."

Children by Choice has a long history of advocating for the reproductive rights of Queenslanders and fought hard for the passage of the Termination of Pregnancy Act in 2018. This legislation was a watershed moment for women's healthcare in our state, and any attempt to reverse it would be a monumental step backwards. We call on every LNP candidate to publicly affirm their commitment to abortion access and pledge to oppose Katter's planned private member's bill.

"Queenslanders—especially Queensland women—are smarter than this. We've seen how rights can be slowly eroded, as they were in the US, and we won't allow it to happen here. The time for vague assurances is over. We need the LNP to stand with us, and with all Queenslanders, against any threat to abortion access."

