



CHILDREN BY CHOICE
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

MEDIA RELEASE

CHILDREN BY CHOICE APPLAUDS INTRODUCTION OF REPRODUCTIVE LEAVE FOR QUEENSLAND PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS

7th May 2024

Children by Choice commends the Steven Miles Queensland State Government for its progressive step in introducing reproductive leave for Queensland public sector workers. This milestone decision reflects a crucial recognition of the diverse needs and challenges faced by pregnant individuals, particularly when accessing abortion services.

The introduction of reproductive leave is a significant victory for reproductive rights, as it acknowledges the importance of providing support and flexibility to individuals during pregnancy, including those seeking medication abortion or surgical termination. For many people residing in regional areas of Queensland, such as the Gold Coast and Mackay, accessing essential healthcare services often entails traveling long distances, posing significant logistical and financial burdens.

Reproductive leave will play a vital role in addressing these challenges by ensuring that individuals have the necessary time off to attend medical appointments and recover from procedures without the added stress of juggling work commitments. However, while this initiative is a positive step forward, it's crucial to recognise that consistent access to reproductive healthcare services must be improved across all regions of Queensland.

Jill McKay, CEO of Children by Choice, expressed her support for the government's decision, stating, "Paid leave for people seeking termination of pregnancy, outside of sick leave, is an incredible step forward. However, people in regional and remote areas of Queensland still need to travel vast distances for access to surgical termination and/or medication termination of pregnancy. We look forward to working with the Queensland Government and Minister Fentiman on the recently launched 'Termination of Pregnancy Action Plan' to see real steps forward in healthcare to match the commitment to reproductive leave.

That said, this move demonstrates a commitment to supporting the reproductive rights and wellbeing of Queenslanders working in our essential public services, and we call upon all sectors to prioritise the implementation of similar policies."

Children by Choice remains committed to advocating for comprehensive reproductive rights and equitable access to healthcare services for all individuals across Queensland. We commend the Queensland State Government for taking this important step towards ensuring that pregnant people have the support they need during critical times in their reproductive journeys.



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