

Eligibility Criteria for Financial Support for Termination of Pregnancy

Eligibility criteria

To qualify for financial support, applicants must meet all the following criteria (mandatory):

- Residency/visa status: Reside or temporarily residing in Queensland.
- Financial Hardship: Lack of access to sufficient funds to cover termination of pregnancy related costs.
- Exploration of Public Funding: All public funding options have been explored and exhausted, or the client is ineligible (this includes Medicare pathways such as QVEMTOP that is available to Medicare and non-Medicare card holders, and travel subsidies).
- Exploration of insurance: If the client has private health insurance, coverage has been explored and exhausted.
- Healthcare referral: Referral received from 13HEALTH, a healthcare provider, or self-referral.
- Clinical appropriateness: Request for termination of pregnancy complies with Queensland laws and medical standards.

Inclusion – costs that may be covered

- Termination of pregnancy procedures (medication or surgical)
- Travel expenses (e.g. petrol, bus, train, flights)
- Accommodation for overnight stays
- Childcare or dependent care during the procedure
- Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) post-procedure
- Other essential termination of pregnancy care expenses (e.g. ultrasound scan, medications for termination of pregnancy symptom management such as anti-nausea, painkillers, anti-diarrheals, etc.)
- Follow up care, including surgical intervention for non-Medicare patients that have retained product post medication termination of pregnancy

Exclusions – costs that will not be covered

- Funding for existing available services in Queensland such as Hospital and Health Service patient travel subsidy scheme requirements, community-based financial assistance, Medicare, Centrelink.
- Funding for choice-based treatment options. This includes choosing surgical over medication termination of pregnancy, or choosing treatment at a different Hospital and Health Service location, where the gestation is under 9 weeks and there is no clinical or extenuating circumstance which indicates the need for surgical termination of pregnancy (STOP). This applies to non-Medicare card holders and treatment provided by private providers.
- Clinical delivery of termination of pregnancy services by unqualified, unregistered providers and practitioners.
- Counselling provided by a psychologist or psychiatrist, mental health and other drugs counselling.
- Costs associated with the registration of births or deaths, funeral and burial expenses

What will be taken into consideration by Children by Choice staff when considering applications for financial assistance:

- Residency/visa status
- Experience of financial hardship and lack of sufficient funds to cover termination of pregnancy related costs
- Experience of domestic/family violence, financial abuse, or other forms of coercive control
- Women and pregnant people who do not have a current Medicare card such as those who hold a temporary visa, international students, refugees
- Rural and remote location and lack of access to appropriate termination of pregnancy care
- Requests for assistance based on the individual's needs, not preferences
- Low-income earners, unemployed or underemployed individuals
- Age based vulnerability: young people under 25
- Cultural considerations and priority community challenges for women and pregnant people such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, asylum seekers, and LGBTQIA+ communities.

These criteria outline the requirements for funding consideration, ensuring alignment with agreed priorities and strategic objectives.

All funding decisions are made in accordance with the contract, with criteria and requirements established in partnership with Queensland Health and Children by Choice.