



the women's  
the royal women's hospital

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## Media Release

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# The Women's supports removal of abortion from the Crimes Act

The Royal Women's Hospital today welcomed proposed legislative reform to remove abortion from the Crimes Act, following the tabling of a Private Members Bill in the Victorian Parliament.

The Women's position on abortion law is as follows: "Abortion is a health issue. As such, it is in the interests of women seeking abortion, and of the health professionals who care for them, that abortion should be addressed in health legislation and not criminal law.

"The Women's believes regulation of abortion in health legislation will provide clarity for both women and health professionals and therefore supports the intent of this Bill.

"It is estimated that a third of Australian women will have an abortion at some stage in their lives. Access to safe abortion services is a necessary component of any health system.

"Restricting access or creating barriers to access to abortion services has the unavoidable effect of making abortion less safe by delaying access until later gestations or, worse, fostering the use of unsafe or illegal services."

### Further information:

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