

14 November, 2019

For immediate release from the [South Australian Abortion Action Coalition](#)

saaac welcomes the SA government's commitment to decriminalise abortion as Safe Access Zones are debated in parliament.

Parliamentarians Debate Safe Access Zones Bill Today:

Debate on Safe Access Zones continues in the South Australian Legislative Council today. Greens MLC, Tammy Franks and Labor MP, Nat Cook introduced the bill to both houses of parliament on 24 September.

The proposed Safe Access Zones would apply to any area within 150 metres of the entrance to an abortion service. This would ensure that patients and staff attending abortion services can arrive and leave free of intimidation and harassment by protestors.

South Australia and Western Australia are the only states without Safe Access Zones. A recent High Court decision upheld Safe Access Zones in Victoria and Tasmania, thereby reasserting the right to unimpeded access to abortion care.

Commitment from Attorney General and Minister for Human Services:

Attorney General, Vickie Chapman, Minister for Health, Stephen Wade, and Minister for Human Services, Michelle Lensink, have signalled the government's intention to decriminalise abortion in South Australia.

This message was delivered on 2 November to a jubilant crowd of around 500 supporters on the steps of Parliament House. It came a day after the Attorney General received the South Australian Law Reform Institute's report examining state laws relating to abortion.

The Attorney General committed to bringing a bill before the parliament in the new year, stating '*Quite simply, women deserve to make autonomous decisions about their bodies, and be treated like any other patient undergoing a medical procedure.*'

Our current laws restrict South Australian women, particularly regional women, from accessing abortion care. They fail to treat women seeking abortion care with the same respect as other medical patients.

South Australia's abortion laws, which 50 years ago led the nation, have not kept up with developments in clinical practice or community expectations. The sooner this is corrected, the sooner our laws will be in line with other Australian jurisdictions and reflect the views of the majority of South Australians.