

**For immediate release from [South Australian Abortion Action Coalition \(saaaac\)](#)
15.11.19**

We welcome the passing of the Health Care (Health Access Zones) Amendment Bill 2019 in the Legislative Council last night

Today the South Australian Parliament is one important step closer to providing Safe Access Zones around abortion services after the Legislative Council passed the bill last night.

Greens MLC, Tammy Franks and Labor MP, Nat Cook introduced the bill to both houses of parliament on 24 September. It is yet to be debated in the House of Assembly.

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.

On 2 November, the Attorney General signalled a commitment from the government to bring a bill to decriminalise abortion 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.'*

The Health Care (Health Access Zones) Amendment bill is the first step towards treating abortion care as health care and extending to patients of abortion services the same respect as other medical patients.

Quotes attributable to Brigid Coomb (nurse and former director of the Pregnancy Advisory Centre) spokesperson for Saaac:

'Safe Access Zones are needed at abortion services in this state where protestors regularly attend with the purpose of interfering in women's decision making about their own health care.'

'This parliament can support women's health care by passing laws to decriminalise abortion and providing Safe Access Zones around abortion services so women can access healthcare free from intimidation.'

'Health care professionals working with those seeking abortion care have every right to be free from harassment and intimidation as they enter and leave their workplaces. Safe Access Zones will protect this right.'