

17 June 2020

Another delay in abortion reform

Today, the House of Assembly should have passed the *Health Care (Safe Access) Amendment Bill 2020 (SA)*. Instead, we have seen yet another delay to much needed reform.

Known as the Safe Access Zones bill, this bill ensures people seeking abortions and those who provide them can do so free from intimidation.

To continue to delay this vital legislation only continues the harassment and intimidation of people seeking an abortion and those who provide them.

88 per cent of South Australians support Safe Access Zones. South Australia and Western Australia are the only states without such zones.

South Australia's abortion laws are outdated. *Health Care (Safe Access) Amendment Bill 2020 (SA)* 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 Mark Rankin, Senior Lecturer in Law, spokesperson for saaac:

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

'Those who seek an abortion and the health care professionals who provide them have every right to be free from harassment and intimidation. Safe Access Zones will protect this right.'

'South Australians have made their views clear with 88 per cent supporting Safe Access Zones. The time for delay is over. This parliament needs to get on with the job and legislate for Safe Access Zones.'

'The government committed to decriminalising abortion in South Australia. That can only happen when people accessing abortion and those providing the health care are free from harassment and intimidation.'