

For immediate release

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Despite being the last state to decriminalise abortion, South Australia has an opportunity to create the best laws for women in Australia

The South Australian Abortion Action Coalition (saaac) welcomes the news that abortion has been decriminalised in New South Wales and congratulates parliamentarians who navigated substantial opposition to the bill. **This leaves South Australia as the only state where this important legislative change for women has not been made.**

This week Tammy Franks MLC and Nat Cooke MP introduced a bill for Safe Access Zones around abortion services in South Australia. Saaac hopes this is a first step towards decriminalising abortion.

Despite being the last state to decriminalise, South Australia has an opportunity to create the best laws for abortion care in the country.

In New South Wales and other states, upper limits have been placed on decriminalised abortion. These create an unnecessary pressure for the small number of patients presenting for late gestation abortions. Upper limits distract the expert team inevitably involved in later abortions from the goal of providing the best quality care for those most in need of sensitive individualised care.

Saaac is hopeful that abortion will soon be decriminalised across all jurisdictions in Australia and that South Australia will legislate to provide an ideal legal framework for reproductive health care professionals and their patients.