

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

14 October 2020

Saaac welcomes the introduction of a bill to decriminalise abortion in South Australia

Today, Liberal MLC Michelle Lensink will introduce a bill to decriminalise abortion in South Australia. Saaac applauds the government for moving on this issue.

A recent study found that 80% of South Australians support the decriminalisation of abortion, suggesting awareness of the fact that one in three women will need an abortion in her lifetime.

Most rural and remote South Australians are currently treated like second class citizens when it comes to access to abortion services. Decriminalising abortion will remove outdated legal obstacles to accessing services and facilitate equitable provision of this crucial form of health care across the state.

By decriminalising abortion, politicians will send a message to South Australian women that their representatives respect their autonomy and that their need for abortion care will be treated like any other need for health care.

In 2019 the SA Law Reform Institute recommended that abortion be decriminalised in South Australia. Saaac urges South Australian parliamentarians to remove abortion from the criminal law so it can be regulated as health care, as a matter of urgency.

Quotes attributable to Barbara Baird, co-convenor of saaac:

Abortion care is health care and it's about time our laws reflected that.

This bill is a golden opportunity to match the quality of abortion care services currently available in parts of SA with a law that makes it possible to deliver appropriate and quality care for all who need it.

Parliamentarians should feel confident that the majority of South Australians will support those who support patients to access the reproductive health services they need, when they need them.

For further comment from saaac contact: saabortionactioncoalition@gmail.com