

11 November 2020

## **Health Care (Safe Access) Amendment Bill 2020 (SA) passes**

On 11 November, the South Australian Legislative Council passed the *Health Care (Safe Access) Amendment Bill 2020 (SA)*. This is heartily welcomed by the South Australian Abortion Action Coalition.

Known as the Safe Access Zones bill, this bill ensures people seeking abortions and those who provide them can do so free from intimidation. It reflects a key recommendation of the SALRI Report on abortion law and practice that was delivered in October 2019.

The vast majority - 88 per cent - of South Australians support Safe Access Zones, which already exist in all other Australian jurisdictions apart from Western Australia, where a bill passed the House of Assembly on the same day.

saaac would like to thank all those who advocated for reproductive rights in the Legislative Council, in particular, the honourable Tammy Franks (MLC), who has long been committed to Safe access Zones. She introduced the first Safe Access Zones bill over a year ago and had carriage of this second bill.

Minister Stephen Wade spoke in favour of the bill, recognising the importance of protecting health care workers, and the honourable Irene Pnevmatikos acknowledged the strong community support of this bill.

This is a significant win for healthcare workers, for women of reproductive age and for patients of abortion care services.

### **Quotes attributed to Brigid Coomb:**

*With this bill, no person seeking abortion will be subjected to intimidation and harassment and no abortion care worker will be fearful as they enter and leave their workplace.*

*Safe Access Zones are sorely 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.*