

16 February 2021**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****saaac welcomes commencement of debate on the Attorney General's Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2020 in the House of Assembly**

This Bill was passed by the Legislative Council in December last year. We are now on the cusp of a legislative change that could remove the stigma of criminality from abortion care and bring the law into the twenty-first century.

saaac hopes for its swift passage through the Parliament.

The Bill is based on extensive research and, if passed, will bring South Australian abortion law up to date with medical advancements, with the views of most South Australians, and with every other jurisdiction in the nation. It is also supported by 32 professional and community organisations, including RANZCOG, Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia and the Human Rights Law Centre.

saaac is concerned that some MPs will be persuaded by the misinformation circulated by those seeking to undermine the Bill. We urge them to listen to the experts and trust those seeking abortions and the health-care professionals responsible for their care who are respected in the Bill as it stands.

Amendments proposed by anti-abortion activists that seek further requirements and restrictions reinforce judgment and stigma and will result in the further marginalisation of the most vulnerable members of our community.

saaac urges South Australian MPs to resist any amendments to the current Bill and pass it as it is.

Quotes attributable to Associate Professor 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 Adelaide with a law that makes it possible to deliver appropriate and quality care for all South Australians who need it, no matter where they live.

Quotes attributable to Brigid Coombe (co-convenor of saaac):

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

Anti-abortionists are proposing amendments to this Bill that threaten to set back abortion care by half a century. We urge MPs not to be taken in by scare campaigns and misinformation that would suggest otherwise.

**For media inquiries and further comments contact saaac via email:
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