



Our Bodies | Our Choices

OBOC provides a free resource for journalists and the community who want to use accurate, up to date and realistic abortion care imagery. Find our gallery online at www.oboc.com.au.

#itstime

Our Bodies Our Choices (OBOC), the community campaign to decriminalise abortion in NSW, welcomes the announcement that the NSW Parliament will debate a bill to decriminalise abortion care in NSW.

These comments are attributable to Christine Donayre, Vice Chairman, OBOC.

“The Bill reflects the work of women’s, legal, medical, health professional, and community groups in NSW who have worked together to reform these archaic laws. We are excited to support this Bill and the MPs who are voting to remove abortion from the NSW Crimes Act.”

“Most people are surprised to find abortion remains a crime here, and that a woman was prosecuted as recently as 2017. Our laws should reflect our communities and our lived realities.”

“If you know four women, you know someone who has had an abortion. We aren’t criminals; we are your mothers and colleagues and wives and partners; CEOs, waitresses, directors, childcare workers, public servants, nurses. We all deserve access to healthcare and to decide the timing and spacing of our children, if and when we want to.”

“In NSW, doctors, health professionals and pregnant people can be prosecuted for accessing or providing abortion services. Unless you are able to find several hundred dollars, and in some cases up to a thousand dollars, quickly, abortion is hard to access even before you factor in travel and child care costs. There are no publicly advertised clinics north of Coffs Harbour, south of Kogarah, or west of the Blue Mountains. For women like me who live outside Sydney, access is difficult and expensive. Abortion decriminalisation is the first step towards resolving inequities of access.”

“Our community of supporters from all over NSW have been discussing these issues with their local members. We will continue to support them to make this change. It’s time.”

Media contact: Claire Pullen 0419 009 575

The OBOC Committee is a diverse group of people including young women, women of colour, and women with disability from all over NSW. Our community is committed to decriminalising abortion.

www.oboc.com.au @ourbodieschoice www.facebook.com.ourbodiesourchoices

Media background

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Abortion 101 - basic facts about abortion

- Abortion is enshrined in human rights law.
- Abortion remains in the criminal codes of NSW and South Australia (partially decriminalised). Abortion was decriminalised in Queensland in October 2018.
- The vast majority of abortions are performed before 12 weeks.
- Abortion is a common and safe medical procedure. Estimates suggest between 20-25% of Australian women will have an abortion.

Full source [here](#).

A woman was last prosecuted in NSW in 2017

- The circumstances of the case are particular, but nonetheless the Levine ruling does not sufficiently protect women in need of services.

Access depends on where you live and how much money you have

- Abortion access in NSW is uneven, concentrated in our cities and expensive.
- Fewer doctors prescribe medical abortion in regional areas. In 2015, the majority of rural and remote areas of NSW had between 1 and 10 medical prescribers in each of the seven rural or remote health districts in the State. Comparatively, in each of the eight metropolitan health districts there were between 20-40 prescribers. Full paper [here](#).
- Providers can be hard to find- if you are a normal person googling you are unlikely find a clinic or provider north of Coffs Harbour, south of Kogarah or west of the Blue Mountains.
- Travel to a metropolitan area for an abortion can make up anywhere upwards of 1/3 of costs – accommodation and childcare are imposed on pregnant people who must travel as well as the provider's fees.
- A woman travelling from regional or rural NSW can expect to pay upwards of \$1,000 for abortion care.

Most people in NSW support access to abortion services

- Abortion rights are popular - polling and surveys consistently show we support the right to choose in NSW.
- 73% of people in NSW support the decriminalisation of abortion and regulating it as healthcare.
- 76% are unaware it remains in the Crimes Act.
- Our laws are out of step with the community and also with other States - NSW is the last state to have abortion unamended in our criminal code.

People who have use abortion care do not fit a stereotype

- It is common for people who already have children to access abortion - [more common](#) than for those who do not have children.
- International data suggests people from all religious backgrounds and cultural groups access abortion care at about the same rate.

Our Bodies Our Choices is a diverse, 100% volunteer group made up of women of colour, regional women, women with disability and women of all ages. We are the community campaign to decriminalise abortion in NSW. Our media contact is Claire: 0419 009 575 by text, call, WhatsApp, Telegram

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