

# A WORD ABOUT WORDS.

How we talk about abortion health care shapes perceptions and influences decisions. We should ensure we use accurate terms and honestly describe the reality of abortion and reproductive. We have adopted these as our practice. For example - we are pro-choice. Those who oppose decriminalising abortion care and improving access are anti-choice, or anti-abortion.

We do not use the self-proclaimed label of 'pro-life', because that is neither honest nor accurate. Where abortion is criminalised, research shows pregnant people's lives are put at risk and death rates are higher. It is not accurate to say those who oppose abortion access are concerned with life.

We can refer you to excellent existing resources on abortion words - contact us.

The Our Bodies Our Choices committee and community acknowledge, with great thanks, the generous donors who enable our work. Through donations, large and small, our donors allow us to campaign and do things like create, host and print this resource.

To those volunteers who keep us running, those who feature in the resource and those who don't: we hope we make you proud, and we can deliver the result we all want - together. Thank you all. We could not do it without you.

We also thank the clinics that allowed us to use their space to produce the images in this resource, and we hope this is of use to you.

Would you like to see your service or clinic in our online resource? Please let us know on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, by email, or on our website.

 <https://www.facebook.com/ourbodiesourchoices/>

 [@ourbodieschoice](https://www.instagram.com/ourbodieschoice)

 [@ourbodieschoice](https://www.twitter.com/ourbodieschoice)

 <http://www.oboc.com.au/>



Our Bodies | Our Choices

Our Bodies Our Choices is the community campaign to decriminalise abortion in NSW. We acknowledge that our work is carried out on lands belonging to First Nations people, lands over which sovereignty was never ceded. We express our hopes for a just settlement with First Nations people that includes Treaty and reparations. Our campaign is inclusive of all and a welcoming space for people of colour, people with disability and regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression.



Our Bodies | Our Choices

## TELLING OUR STORIES: AN EVIDENCE-BASED GUIDE TO ACCURATE ABORTION PORTRAYAL

A resource for journalists, service providers, and the community

# HOW WE TELL OUR STORIES MATTERS.

For those of us committed to ensuring accuracy in how we talk about and portray abortion health care, visual resources are scarce.

We know images have a powerful influence on how we understand and retain information. We want to tell our stories and the stories of abortion health care in ways supported by evidence, but such images are not readily available - where they exist at all.

Imagery in the public domain for use by journalists, service providers and campaigners is rarely an accurate portrayal of abortion care.

1 in 5

Australian women will have an abortion

It disembodies pregnant people, showing headless and limbless torsos of people in advanced stages of pregnancy. It makes pregnant people entirely absent in some cases, and rarely ever portrays medical abortion or medication - though this is an increasingly common form of abortion health care. It obfuscates who is the subject of abortion care by portraying unrelated subjects, and often only portrays pregnant people whole where they are portrayed relationally.



Where people are portrayed in abortion images available free and online (headless and limbless as they are) they are overwhelmingly young, able-bodied, conventionally attractive, and white. This fails to tell the story of our community.

It also fails to make it clear that this common medical procedure is one undergone by one in four Australian women.

Imagery is key to storytelling but almost all the images available to us misrepresent reality. Even those people dedicated to ethical and accurate storytelling are drawing from a limited resource pool.

We decided we'd change that.

of people in NSW support abortion decriminalisation

over 70%

Our images tell the story of abortion - from what a clinical appointment looks like, the medication involved, and the pro-choice community campaigns making change possible.

Our full image library is available online and free to use, along with our suggested photo credit. We hope this resource helps you tell the stories we all want to tell.

You can find the full library of our images online at: [www.oboc.com.au](http://www.oboc.com.au)