



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Abortion Law Reform: Women to Decide

Women's Health in the South East (WHISE) congratulates the Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC) for its excellent Report on ways to remove abortion from the Crimes Act 1958.

The Report outlines three options on decriminalising abortion, and these will now be considered by government.

The first two options give control to doctors on decisions in relation to a woman's pregnancy. The third option, Model C, trusts pregnant women to make their own decisions about the outcomes of their pregnancy.

"We need to bring abortion law in line with community views, given that over 80% of the community support women's choice in relation to abortion," said Tricia Mahon, CEO of Women's Health in the South East.

"Decriminalising abortion will allow abortion to be regulated in the same way that all other medical procedures are regulated. We need to understand that abortion is a difficult issue for all concerned, but that we must support the mother in making an informed choice for herself in this matter," she said.

In supporting Model C, Ms Mahon stressed the need for continued funding for information and sexual health and information programs, so that the need for abortion may be gradually reduced in our community.

WHISE encourages readers to urge their local MPs to support Model C, guaranteeing all women the right to make their own decision about their mental and physical wellbeing.

For further information on this matter please contact Tricia Mahon at WHISE on (03) 9794 8677, or by email ceo@whise.org.au

WHISE: Strength in Dignity, Choice, Diversity and Justice

Women's Health in the South East is a not for profit, community based women's health service, working with individual women, communities and services in the south-eastern metropolitan region of Melbourne. We encourage women to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing, and work to overcome disadvantage, inequality and lack of access to services. Our services include: health promotion and information; assistance and referral; service provider education; self help support groups; secondary school programs; programs for newly arrived women and families; policy analysis and advocacy.

Our services are free and accessible to all women in our region via our phone: (03) 9794 8677.

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