

## **MPs applauded for historic vote legalising abortion care**

Fair Agenda | Press Release | 17 October

Women's rights organisation Fair Agenda has applauded Queensland MPs who passed the historic *Termination of Pregnancy Bill* today.

"This is a historic vote: for modernising our reproductive healthcare systems, for providing compassionate access to abortion care, and for trusting a woman's to make decisions about her health and body." Said Renee Carr, Executive Director of Fair Agenda.

"We applaud the 50 MPs who have voted in support of this desperately needed change, for their leadership and support of compassionate healthcare."

"A woman knows what is right for her body, her family and her future. We thank these MPs for recognising that."

"Doctors should be able to provide their patients with the best care possible – without fear of criminal charges. This reform makes that possible."

We thank those MPs for listening to the Law Reform Commission recommendations and the vast majority of Queenslanders, who support a woman's legal right to make decisions about her own pregnancy.

"We thank the Ministers who have championed this Bill. And the Government for introducing it."

"We applaud the MPs from across all sides of politics who supported this desperately needed reform. We thank you for recognising that access to healthcare comes above partisan politics."

"Last Sunday more than a thousand people braved torrential rain to show support for these laws."

"These laws pave the way for safe and compassionate access to reproductive healthcare for all Queenslanders."

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### **Further information:**

Polling commissioned by Fair Agenda, conducted by ReachTEL on 16 August 2018 (of 1,327 residents) showed that:

- 71.9% of Queenslanders agree that laws should be changed so that accessing or providing an abortion is no longer a criminal offence in Queensland.

- 75.1% of Queenslanders agree that patients should have protections that ensure their doctor's personal beliefs don't affect their access to reproductive healthcare.
- 32.4% of Queenslanders would be less likely to vote for an MP who opposes legal access to abortion for all Queenslanders (compared to 27.6% more likely)
- 83% of Queenslanders agree that women and girls seeking an abortion should be protected from people harassing and intimidating them as they enter reproductive healthcare clinics