

## **Advocates celebrate historic abortion reform in NSW, say South Australia must be next to decriminalise abortion**

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Women's rights organisation Fair Agenda has applauded the passage of laws to decriminalise abortion in NSW, and declared that South Australia must now be the next state to enact more compassionate access to abortion care.

The group welcomed the NSW reform, with Fair Agenda's Executive Director Renee Carr saying, "This vote was about safe, legal and compassionate access to healthcare. A woman might need to end a pregnancy for any number of deeply complex and personal reasons. This legislation is an important step towards ensuring everyone can access the healthcare they need, when they need it and close to home."

"Members of parliament made history this week, by legislating for a health system that allows doctors to do their jobs, and provide the care that their patients need. We particularly thank the 15 co-sponsors for their leadership in championing this change."

"Today's historic change is a testament to the advocacy and leadership of pro-choice advocates who have championed more compassionate laws, many of them for decades."

"It's disappointing that a minority of MPs tried to hold this reform hostage, and delayed these desperately needed improvements to our healthcare laws."

In celebrating progress in NSW, the group has also shone a light on the need for change in South Australia.

"A woman knows what is right for her body, her family and her future. The New South Wales Parliament has recognised that today. It is time for South Australia to do the same."

Right now abortion care is only legal in SA if two doctors agree that a woman's circumstance meet particular narrow conditions - of a threat to the woman's life or health, or fetal disability.

"Current laws in South Australia are out of touch and out of date, and they're hurting women - particularly in rural and remote areas."

"We need a system that ensures women can access abortion care when they need it and where they need it. Not one that causes unnecessary delays to patients seeking a time sensitive procedure."

"Over the past decade Australians have benefited from important abortion care reforms made possible by pro-choice champions on both sides of the aisle. This healthcare issue should be above partisan politics, we hope South Australian MPs will support this desperately needed reform."

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