



New South Wales
Council for Civil Liberties

NSWCCL PUBLIC STATEMENT

In support of

***The Public Health
Amendment (Safe Access to
Reproductive Health Clinics)
Bill***

2nd May 2018

NSWCCL supports safe access to abortion clinics bill

The Public Health Amendment (Safe Access to Reproductive Health Clinics) Bill

Women in NSW have been long denied needed reform to decriminalise abortion and instead must rely on a deeply flawed and unsatisfactory legal context. This affects both women and medical practitioners.

NSWCCL has for many years advocated decriminalization of abortion. We are confident that the NSW Parliament will eventually have to accept women's right to make their own reproductive choices and respond to the strong community support for this right to be reflected in the law.

In the interim, NSWCCL strongly supports the Safe Access to Reproductive Health Clinics Bill as a greatly needed safety and privacy provision for women lawfully accessing reproductive health clinics in NSW.

The regular- and often extreme- harassment and intimidation of women accessing NSW clinics is indisputable – as is the inadequacy of current NSW law to provide protection from this harassment.

Similar provisions exist in 2 states and 2 territories.

NSWCCL applauds Labor and Greens support for this Bill. We similarly applaud the support and advocacy of National MLC Trevor Khan.

We urge all Government members in both Houses of Parliament to consider the impact of the current harassment and intimidation on women seeking a lawful medical service and support this necessary, sensible and proportionate Bill.



Therese Cochrane
Secretary
NSW Council for Civil Liberties
Mob 0402 013 303

Contacts in relation to this statement

Dr Lesley Lynch VP NSWCCL: 0416497508; Lesley.lynch@nswccl.org.au

Nicholas Cowdery SC NSWCCL Committee member: n.cowdery@unsw.edu.au