

POSITION STATEMENT

ABORTION

Family Planning Victoria (FPV) supports and advocates for all individuals to have equitable, timely and safe access to medical and surgical abortion. In order to make informed reproductive choices, everyone should have access to unbiased information, education and services. Although abortion in Australia is safe and common, stigma, as well as economic, geographic and legal barriers prevent people from exercising their full reproductive rights.¹⁻⁴ FPV supports and advocates for the expansion of access to abortion throughout Australia.

Family Planning Victoria's Position

- People must have access to accurate, unbiased information about all pregnancy choices, including medical and surgical abortion.
- Medical and surgical abortion must be legal, safe, accessible, timely and affordable for all people in Australia.
- Nationally consistent data collection on contraception, unintended pregnancy and abortion is needed to help inform policy and practice.

Actions - FPV will pursue a strategic approach to increase access to abortion services and information by:

- Advocating for the development and implementation of a national process for the collection of consistent data on unintended pregnancy and abortion.
- Advocating for improved access to contraception following abortion.
- Advocating for increased abortion provision through public hospitals.
- Advocating for subsidised abortion provision for vulnerable groups, such as Medicare ineligible asylum seekers.
- Advocating for Overseas Student Health Cover to provide access to abortion as part of standard coverage from the date of arrival in Australia.
- Supporting relevant partners and other organisations advocating for legislative action to provide equity in abortion access, including national decriminalisation and safe access zones.
- Advocating for equitable access to abortions during the second trimester of pregnancy.
- Upskilling and supporting primary care providers to provide medication abortion.
- Supporting awareness and education about abortion legality, access and options.
- Supporting professional development and awareness about reproductive coercion.

References

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