

23 June 2022

A great day for abortion healthcare in South Australia!

This morning the Governor of South Australia signed off on new regulations for the delivery of abortion care under the **Termination of Pregnancy Act (SA) 2021**.

The new law that decriminalises abortion care can finally take effect on 7 July 2022.

Saaac is thrilled the wait is now over.

Many thanks to the Health Minister Chris Picton for overseeing this final step and to all the public servants who have worked behind the scenes.

Saaac reiterates its thanks all the politicians who championed the legislation, especially Tammy Franks MLC, former Attorney General Vickie Chapman, and former Minister for Health Stephen Wade, Michelle Lensink MLC, Irene Pnevmatikos MLC, Nat Cook MP, Katrine Hildyard MP and Deputy Premier Susan Close.

What does this mean for South Australians who need abortion care?

- The new law removes old barriers to accessing telehealth abortion care, which is especially important for those in rural and remote South Australia and those who need to isolate due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- GPs will now be able to prescribe medical abortion to patients who can choose when and where they manage the process.
- Patients' informed consent is now front and centre in abortion care services.

Saaac looks forward to a new era of abortion care in South Australia that includes the ongoing provision of high-quality public services. This will involve the further education of GPs to ensure they can contribute to the improved accessibility of medical abortion for their patients.

Quotes attributed to Brigid Coombe (Co-convenor saaac):

We welcome the implementation of the reformed abortion law removing the outdated barriers to access for South Australians.

The legal change was long overdue, and we have now waited 15 months for regulations to be finalised so the law can take effect. Saaac is relieved that we have finally arrived at this point.

We encourage all GPs to seriously consider taking up the opportunity for education in medical abortion so they can fully support and participate in this new era of improved abortion care in SA.

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Brigid Coombe 

About saaac: The South Australian Abortion Action Coalition is a broad coalition of people who want to improve abortion access in SA. Our members come from diverse backgrounds including the medical, legal, academic, social justice, and advocacy professions.