



# REGIONAL, RURAL AND REMOTE ABORTION ACCESS PROGRAM

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## WHO ARE WE?

**Children by Choice** is a pro-choice counselling, information, and referral service providing all-options support for an unplanned pregnancy.

Supporting women or pregnant people, their partners, parents, support people and professionals.

# REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE





**NO  
CONTRACEPTIVE  
METHOD IS  
100%  
EFFECTIVE.**

You have a 1% chance of pregnancy even if you use the most effective contraception perfectly.



*Source: Better Health Channel.*

# TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY IN AUSTRALIA

90.2% of abortions occur before 14 weeks gestation.

Most common age brackets to access an abortion is 20-29.

It is generally accepted that somewhere between 10,000 and 14,000 abortions take place each year in Qld.





# TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL 2018

- Termination of pregnancy on request to 22 weeks and post 22 weeks with the approval of 2 doctors
- 150m safe access zones enacted around clinics providing termination of pregnancy care
- Registered health practitioners with a conscientious objection must disclose the objection to the person and refer on to a practitioner/service who can provide the requested service



# QUEENSLAND ABORTION COSTS

## Medical up to 9 weeks : \$0 – \$1420

- Private clinic between \$400- \$1420
- GP medical provision between \$6 -\$800
- Telehealth \$325- \$600 approximate
- Sexual Health clinic \$0 - 38

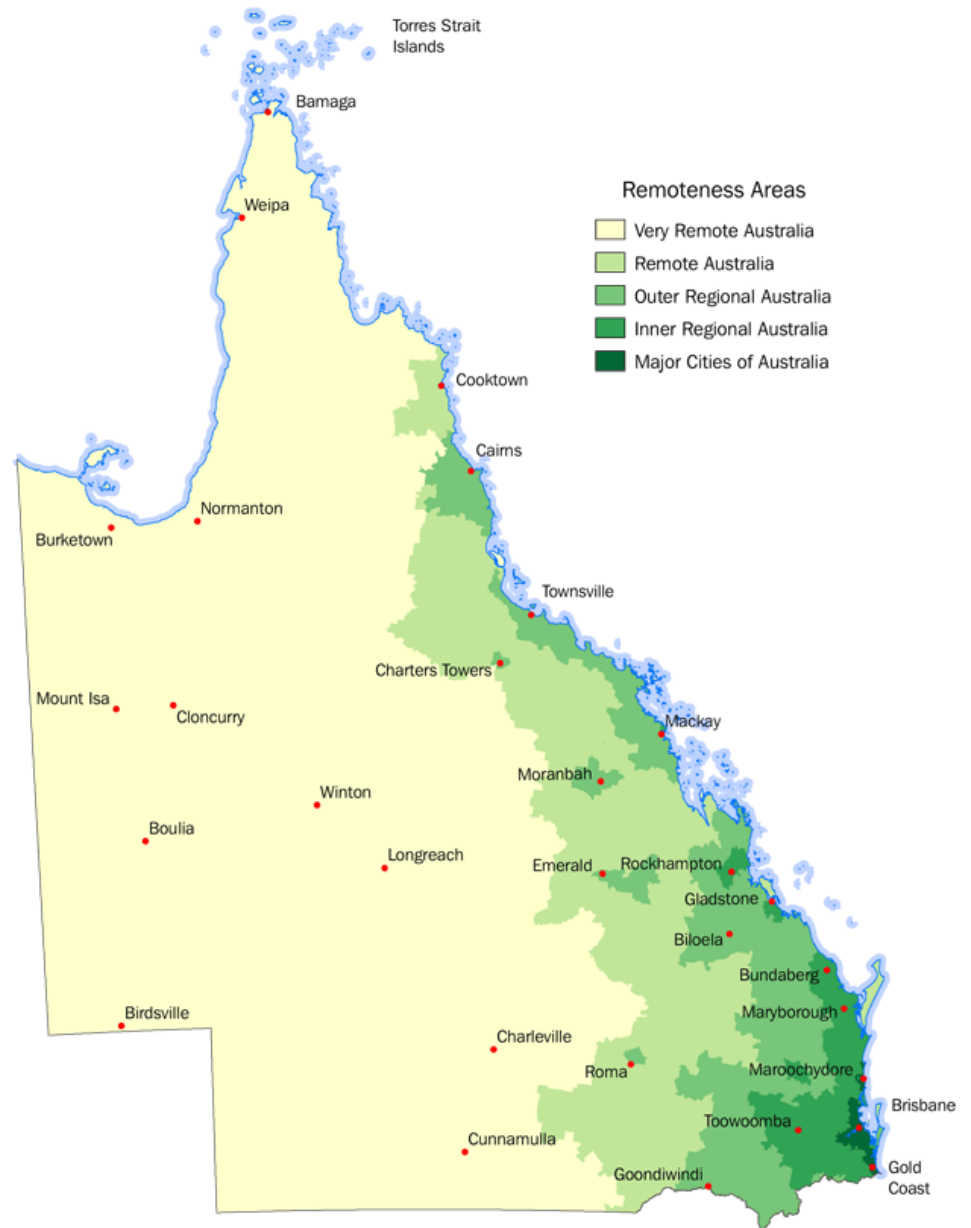
## Surgical up to 21. 6 weeks: \$350 - \$8210

The surgical cost increases every week over 12 weeks

Clinics outside of South East Queensland start at approx. \$350 more.



# REGIONAL RURAL AND REMOTE QUEENSLAND







# PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

## 1. REFERRAL

Build capacity

Coordinated support

Improve referral pathways



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Unplanned Pregnancy and Best Practice  
Counselling (1 full day)

Pregnancy Options Workshop (1-3 hours)

Screening to Safety (1 hour – full day)



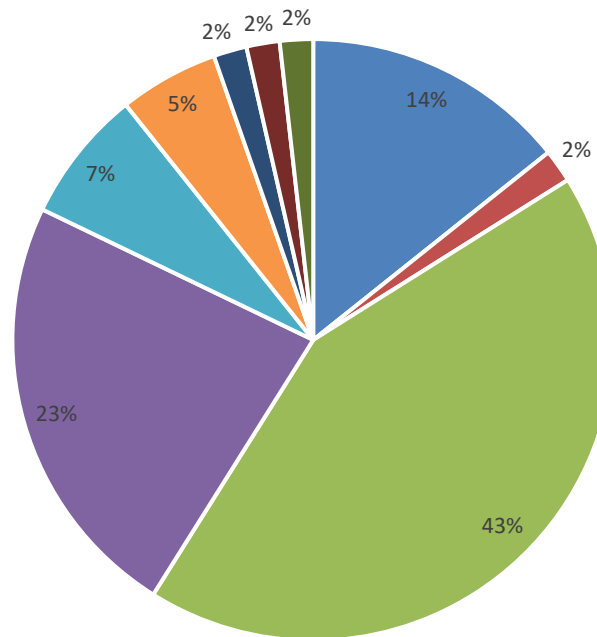
# PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

## 2. ACCESS

Streamline and improve access for the most vulnerable women

# RRRAAP SUPPORTED CLIENTS BY HHS

Number of clients funded at June 2019



■ Darling Downs

■ Central Queensland

■ Central West

■ South West


■ Mackay

■ North West


■ Wide Bay

■ Townsville


■ West Moreton



“I can't tell you how amazing the financial support offered by your organisation was. It meant I didn't have to ask anyone to borrow money that I would still be paying back now and also I didn't have to explain and risk being judged by family or friends.”



“I can not begin to explain how grateful and overwhelmingly happy I was when I was told there was actually somewhere willing to help me. It took so much stress away and without it I don't think I'd be here”



“I felt like no one would help me and I was going to be forced to have this baby. Words can not begin to explain how grateful I am for children by choice.”



# PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

## 3. SUPPORT

Establish an abortion doula initiative



# What it's like to work as an abortion doula

RN By Anna Kelsey-Sugg

Updated 22 May 2019, 12:55pm



PHOTO: Shireen Rose Shakouri supports people through their abortions, either in clinics or at their homes. (Supplied)

## Sometimes Shireen Rose Shakouri simply holds people's hands.

At other times she distracts them from what's about to happen with some ordinary conversation — about their work, their kids, their pets.

Her job, she says, is "about whatever the person needs in that moment".

"It's a complicated thing. Not everyone is feeling all sorrow or all relief," she says.

Shireen is a trained abortion doula with [the Doula Project](#), where she supports people through their abortions.

It can involve driving them to and from a clinic, sitting with them during the procedure and helping them develop an aftercare plan, which considers things like food and rest.

**RELATED STORY:** [Access to abortion still depends on 'your postcode and your income'](#)

**RELATED STORY:** [Mothers get abortions, too: Breaking down misconceptions around terminations](#)



## WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- Check your HHS referral pathway – they have been developed, some are available online
- Link in with local women's health services in your region
- Establish a network with GP providers in your area
- Call CbyC for information, support, training and advice
- Contact your nearest abortion provider



Our underlying principle is that  
**THE WOMAN IS THE EXPERT ON  
HER OWN LIFE**





**Thank you**

**Please keep in touch!**

## **Rachael Smith**

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