

MEDIA RELEASE



**The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of Obstetricians
and Gynaecologists**

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For Immediate Release

College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Supports the Decriminalisation of Abortion in Victoria

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) today officially announced its supports for the Victorian Government's initiative to introduce new legislation to modernise the law by decriminalising abortion.

'When the Victorian Government indicated that they intended to review the law pertaining to abortion, they indicated that any change should reflect current practice. RANZCOG is of the view that the draft legislation does reflect current practice,' said RANZCOG President, Dr Christine Tippett today.

'There is no indication that there is an unmet need for abortion services in the state of Victoria and the legislation as proposed will not increase the number of abortions performed in Victoria.

'The provision of safe lawful abortion services is an essential component of women's health services.

'The draft legislation reflects the importance of recognising that Victorian women should have access to safe and high quality services. It is about protecting both the women and their doctors, without the fear of prosecution or persecution', said Dr Tippett.

RANZCOG Statement: *Termination of Pregnancy* (Statement No. C-Gyn 17) can be viewed on the College website: <http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/publications/statements/C-gyn17.pdf>

For further information or to arrange an interview with the President, please contact:

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