



**Media Release**  
**Wednesday 1st December, 2010**

## **Encouragement for other states who seek to reform outdated abortion laws with new documentary launch**

Women's Health Victoria today launched a new documentary that explores the campaign to remove abortion from the Crimes Act in Victoria.

Acting Executive Director of Women's Health Victoria, Ms Petra Begnell, said that the bipartisan support and conscience vote that saw the reforms passed in 2008 in Victoria were a significant protection of women's rights in the state.

"We have seen what happened in Queensland this year when a young couple were charged for terminating a pregnancy.

"The leadership and conviction across Liberal, Labor and Greens MPs reformed a law that was outdated and left loopholes for women and their doctors to be prosecuted. This reform meant that the law was updated to reflect clinical practice and the majority community view.

"There is still work to do. Making sure that women can obtain accurate information and access abortion services is critical, especially in regional areas.

"We urge other states who are seeking to decriminalize abortion to watch the documentary and get a sense of the elements of this successful campaign in Victoria.

"We will continue to campaign for the preservation of safe and legal abortion. We look forward to working with the new Liberal Government, and Ministers, many of whom supported the reform," said Ms Begnell.

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