



Thursday 13 February 2014

Letter to the editor

Submitted in response to:

[Abortion laws 'among worst in the world'](#) The Age 13/02/14

It's important that women's reproductive health doesn't become a casualty of the political situation in Victoria.

The Abortion Law Reform Act provides women with the ability to make choices about if and when they have children. It provides doctors with clarity about their responsibilities.

But myths and misinformation continue to be used in an attempt to wind back women's access to abortion. Proposed changes to the Abortion Law Reform Act threaten to force us back to the days of backyard abortions.

The facts:

1. Health professionals need to make a woman aware of their conscientious objection to abortion and direct her to someone who will be able to help her. It does not compel them to perform an abortion.
2. There is no comprehensive evidence to suggest that sex selective abortion is occurring in Victoria. Australia has a totally normal ratio of male to female births, which suggests that sex selective abortion is incredibly rare, if it happens at all. Most abortions occur early in pregnancy, before the sex of the foetus is known

Let's get the facts right. Women's reproductive health should not be a political bargaining chip.

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