

Monday 25 May 2026



## RE: Sex Selection Bill Legislative Council 3 June 2026

We are deeply concerned about a Bill going to the NSW Parliament's Legislative Council on 3 June 2026 to revisit previously debated and debunked issues around sex selective abortion and request your assistance in ensuring it does not pass the upper house.

The [Abortion Law Reform \(Sex Selection Prohibition\) Bill 2025](#) and the associated rally organised for 2 June 2026 are yet another attempt to inflame tensions on abortion, create barriers to pregnancy options and [recriminalise abortion](#)

By introducing heavy fines of up to \$44,000, five-year prison terms for healthcare providers and voiding professional indemnity insurance - this proposed Bill seeks to undermine the rightful identification of abortion as a matter of health rather than law. Further, the proposed introduction of a specific professional misconduct provision for breach of abortion legislation would have a negative impact on access to care by further deterring health workers from providing services. Issues with this Bill have been highlighted in the [Legislation Review Digest No. 38 of 58](#) (pages 25 to 27).

These moves challenge a woman's right to have an abortion in NSW and the ability of healthcare workers to provide this care. The Bill in particular, undermines the *Abortion Law Reform Act 2019*, introduced to decriminalise abortion and to protect women and healthcare workers.

Abortion legislation in NSW already mandates against sex selective abortions for non-medical reasons, and as health workers and human rights advocates, we support the existing legislation. We acknowledge there is widespread misunderstanding around sex selection and abortion, however a ["Review of termination of pregnancy for the purpose of sex selection in NSW"](#) conducted by NSW Health in December 2020 showed that terminations are very rarely performed for this reason.

The [research from Edith Cowan University](#) used to support the Bill comes from data from 1994-2015, which is outdated in comparison to the more recent NSW Health review. The focus on select cultural groups perceived ongoing preference for male children serves no purpose but to inflame racial vilification on multiple levels.

The style of legislation proposed by the Bill is needless and harmful and so, this Bill should be recognised for what it is: a familiar strategy from the anti-abortion playbook attempting to chip away at women's reproductive rights bit by bit. This Bill seeks to generate unwarranted moral panic about abortion for the purposes of sex selection – while notably unsupported by reliable evidence - and then propose a "solution", the main purpose of which is to recriminalise aspects of abortion care and yet again treat it differently from other health care services, making it more difficult for women to access. The World Health Organization and United Nations have found that restricting women's access to health services such as abortion for sex selective reasons "may put their health and lives in jeopardy."



People considering their pregnancy options need access to skilled, unbiased health professionals and laws which allow healthcare to build on evidence-based information to support them to make informed decisions. There is considerable local and international evidence that we should not legislate against sex selective abortion in the way the Bill proposes, as this would create additional unnecessary barriers to abortion care and further negative impact on women's wellbeing. If passed, this Bill will force health workers to question a woman's intentions when requesting an abortion, and to weigh that up against the risk of personal criminal prosecution.

As a collection of organisations with deep expertise and a long-standing commitment to advancing sexual and reproductive rights and healthcare, we urge you to do all in your power to ensure this Bill does not pass.

On behalf of:

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