



SPHERE

NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Sexual and
Reproductive Health for Women in Primary Care

Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Coalition

Position statement on Roe v Wade

The SPHERE Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Coalition strongly supports the provision of abortion as an essential health service and integral component of reproductive health care and rights.

In light of recent news regarding the United States Supreme Court's intent to overturn Roe v Wade, we stand in solidarity with US health care professionals who provide abortion care and work to protect safe, compassionate access to abortion services.

The evidence is clear. Banning or restricting abortions will not stop women from having abortions, but will rather force women to seek unsafe abortions.

Banning or restricting abortion will set back gains and global commitments to health, wellbeing, and gender equality at a high economic and societal cost. The negative impacts from a reversal of Roe v Wade extend beyond women and include trans, non-binary and other pregnancy capable people.

We are also mindful of the situation in Australia regarding abortion health care. While all jurisdictions have legal access to abortion, availability remains highly inequitable, particularly in regional and rural areas, and abortion is not well integrated into the Australian public health system. The pending US Supreme Court decision has the potential to put at risk access to safe abortion care in Australia through continued and heightened stigmatisation of this essential health service.

We stand in support of Roe v Wade and the right to choose whether and when to have children. Abortion is a health and human right. It is critical that abortion be readily accessible for all women and pregnancy capable people.