



SAFE ACCESS ZONES IN WA

People in Western Australia seeking abortions, as well as their doctors, face harassment and intimidation as they attempt to access a medical procedure.

We need to protect the privacy and dignity of patients accessing reproductive services.

The Greens will campaign to provide for a 150m safe access zone around abortion clinics and service providers to ensure a patient's right to medical privacy.

Under this initiative, people will be able to continue to express their views on abortion, but they will have to do it in other places.

> BACKGROUND

Abortion was decriminalised in the late 1990's in Western Australia. However, Pro-Life groups picket abortion clinics in Perth; this is harassment and intimidation of people. The following Initiative is from Mehreen Faruqi's Private Members Bill 'Abortion Law Reform'.

This is not a prohibition of protest. It aims to balance privacy with the implied freedom of political communication under the Constitution.

Safe Access Zones are in place in Victoria, the ACT and Tasmania. These reforms are supported by Ellen Sandell, Shane Rattenbury, and Mehreen (as above).

> THE GREENS WILL:

- Provide for exclusion zones (also known as safe access zones) around premises at which abortions are provided to ensure the safety, well-being, privacy and dignity of people accessing the services provided at the premises, their partners, health professionals and other staff¹.
- Makes it an offence for a person who is in an exclusion zone to bother, beset, harass, intimidate, interfere with, impede, obstruct or threaten, by any means, a person who is accessing, leaving, or attempting to access or leave, premises at which abortions are provided².

¹ Defines exclusion zone as an area within a 150 metre radius of premises at which abortions are provided or of a pedestrian access point to a building that houses premises at which abortions are provided.

² Provides that the proposed restrictions do not apply so as to prohibit conduct near Parliament House and that they apply despite other legislative provisions regarding protests.