

Recent WAAC activities

- Worked with other women's groups and the wider community to oppose the introduction of foetal personhood laws in NSW.
- Campaigned for dropping of charges against a couple from Cairns, charged in early 2009 with 'attempting to procure an abortion' – the case attracted national condemnation of the Qld laws.
- Hosted a national meeting of abortion rights activist groups, the first for many years. The event included a public forum day.
- Attended IWD, the f Conference, NOWSA and other feminist and activist events to present workshops and information about abortion rights and WAAC's campaigns.
- Organised an Abortion Rights march and rally in 2010 to promote abortion rights.
- Worked with individuals and organisations around Australia to organise Sydney's National Day of Action for Abortion Rights rally.
- Monitored access and equity issues for women in states and territories which have had reforms to their abortion laws ~ many believe that reform laws have cleared up things for women. Our information is that this is not the case ~ factors or interpretations of new laws may mean women can't easily get information on obtaining an abortion in their state or territory.
- Continued our support and advocacy work for rural, low income and disadvantaged women who are unable to access abortion due to high out-of-pocket costs.



Campaigning for women's right to choose abortion since 1972



Our demands:

- Abortion is a woman's right to choose
- Repeal of all abortion laws
- Free, safe abortion on demand
- Free, safe contraception on demand
- No forced sterilisation

Women's Abortion Action Campaign



What is WAAC?



What is WAAC?

Women's Abortion Action Campaign (WAAC), formed in 1972 by the Women's Liberation Movement, began as a national campaign in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney.

Both WAAC and Children by Choice (Qld) are long-standing Australian abortion rights groups still actively campaigning and lobbying today.

WAAC also works actively with abortion rights groups throughout Australia and internationally.



What's happened since 1972?

Since the 1970s, WAAC has worked with supporters and organisations such as trade unions, women's health services and migrant groups.

Today, WAAC remains active, and whenever there is an attack against abortion rights (eg through anti-abortion bills in federal or state parliament) regional WAAC groups become active.

WAAC prepares submissions and statements for parliamentary committees and inquiries into abortion-related issues, public events and educational activities.

Real progress in securing accessible, affordable abortion, access to *quality* abortion services and continuity of care remains blocked, despite continuing majority community support of a woman's right to choose abortion.

In Australia, legal precedents following abortion-related criminal cases mean safe abortion services are available to those who can afford and are able to access them.

The days of extensive police corruption and backyard abortionists as the only option may be past, but access, affordability and quality of service remain major issues.

Women's health remains vulnerable to attacks by anti-choice extremists and politicians who trade women's rights for political purposes ~ what should be a personal health matter is used as a bargaining chip.

Surveys consistently show more than 80 per cent community support for a woman's right to choose ~ and access, safe abortion.

WAAC is committed to the crucial demand – *repeal* of all abortion laws

A factor undermining the demand for repeal of all abortion laws is the 'conscience' vote on abortion in major political parties.

Parties court the vote of anti-abortionists to suit their political purposes ~ in 1996 deals between the Howard government and then-Senator Harradine blocked women's access to the abortifacient drug RU486 and in NSW successive governments have relied on the vote of anti-abortion MPs for various pieces of legislation.

Another serious issue is that many state, territory and federal politicians simply don't understand the access problems some reformed laws have created.

Free, safe contraception

Better information, especially for young people in the important areas of contraception and sex education will enhance individual choice and health options.

Ensuring access and equity to contraception is a primary goal of WAAC.

Get involved!

For information about WAAC's next meeting time and date + upcoming events complete this form and

- post to:

**WAAC, PO Box 3033,
Rhodes Post Shop,
Rhodes NSW 2138**

Alternatively contact WAAC via

- email: **contact_waac@yahoo.com.au**
or
- phone: **0407 665 857**

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