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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Abortion Law Reform Amendment (Health Care Access) Bill 2025

First print

Proposed amendments

No. 1 Termination by medical practitioner at more than 23 weeks

Page 3, Schedule 1. Insert after line 39—

[5A] Section 5A

Insert after section 5—

5A Termination by medical practitioner at more than 23 weeks

- (1) A person who is a medical practitioner must not perform a termination on a person who is more than 23 weeks pregnant unless the medical practitioner reasonably believes the termination is appropriate in all the circumstances.
- (2) In considering whether performing a termination on a person is appropriate in all the circumstances, the medical practitioner must have regard to the following—
 - (a) whether it is essential to perform a termination of an affected foetus in a multiple pregnancy at a gestation that does not risk severe prematurity and its attendant consequences for the surviving foetus,
 - (b) whether there are serious foetal abnormalities that were not identifiable, diagnosed or fully evaluated before the pregnancy reached 23 weeks, including abnormalities involving the brain, heart, renal and skeletal systems, or whether the foetus has been exposed to infective agents which may damage or limit the gestation and development of the foetus,
 - (c) whether the person on whom the termination is to be performed, (the *patient*) has had difficulty accessing timely and necessary specialist services before the pregnancy reached 23 weeks, including patients experiencing significant socio-economic disadvantage, cultural or language barriers and those who reside in remote locations,
 - (d) whether the patient has been denied agency over the decision to continue a pregnancy or not, including the abuse of minors and vulnerable adults to sexual and physical violence including rape, incest and sexual slavery,

- (e) whether the abuse outlined in paragraph (d) includes circumstances in which such abuse is not apparent, or the pregnancy is not diagnosed until an advanced gestational age,
- (f) whether the patient has a deteriorating maternal medical condition, or late diagnosis of a disease requiring treatment incompatible with an ongoing pregnancy, such as malignancies.