



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Inquiry into the provisions of the Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7 August 2019

The NSW Upper House has referred to the Standing Committee on Social Issues an inquiry into the provisions of the Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019. The objects of the bill are:

- (a) to enable a termination of a pregnancy to be performed by a medical practitioner on a person who is not more than 22 weeks pregnant,
- (b) to enable a termination of a pregnancy to be performed by a medical practitioner on a person who is more than 22 weeks pregnant in certain circumstances,
- (c) to identify certain registered health practitioners who may assist in the performance of a termination,
- (d) to require a registered health practitioner who has a conscientious objection to the performance of a termination on a person to disclose the objection and refer the person to another practitioner who does not have a conscientious objection,
- (e) to repeal offences relating to abortion in the Crimes Act 1900 and abolish any common law rules relating to abortion,
- (f) to amend the *Crimes Act 1900* to make it an offence for a person who is not a medical practitioner otherwise authorised under the Act to terminate a pregnancy.

The bill is currently being considered by the NSW Legislative Assembly.

The reporting date for the Committee is Tuesday 20 August 2019.

The Committee recognises the public interest in this inquiry, and will be making further announcements in relation to the seeking of submissions and the holding of public hearings shortly.

The Committee Chair, the Hon Shayne Mallard, commented: 'This inquiry follows a recently introduced short form model that allows stakeholders and members to quickly canvas issues raised during the consideration of legislation prior to its debate in the Legislative Council. The inquiry will report evidence from its hearings to the Legislative Council on Tuesday 20 August 2019.'

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Mr Shayne Mallard MLC, on 9230 2434.*