From:

To: <u>abortionlawreform</u>
Subject: Time for change

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The reality is that abortion is a necessary reproductive health procedure accessed by millions of women each year.

Queensland women and doctors deserve to be able to access or provide the procedure without the threat of prosecution.

The Queensland Criminal Code statutes on abortion date from 1899, and were based on UK legislation from 1861 – before women had the right to vote, before commercial flights, space travel and flushing toilets, and before doctors started washing their hands to prevent the spread of disease.

Medical practice has come a long way since then and these laws no longer reflect the reality of clinical service provision. At least one in four Australian women will have abortion at some point in their lifetime.

Laws which criminalise abortion risk criminalising over a quarter of the female population of Queensland. Outdated statues of law which hinder women from making incredibly difficult and important decisions regarding their own health and wellbeing are archaic. Time for change.

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