

Question on Notice

No. 622

Asked on 21 June 2022

DR A MACMAHON asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise if there has been any government review into the operation of the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018, and when will its results be made public?

ANSWER

Since the introduction of the *Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018* (Act) the Government reviewed the operation of the Act and identified the benefit of enabling prescribed students to assist in the performance of a termination of pregnancy. As such the Government introduced the *Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021* to amend the Act and provide students with appropriate learning opportunities before they become qualified health practitioners. The *Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in March 2022, which means that prescribed students are now legally able to assist in the performance of a termination of pregnancy.

Queensland Health is diligent in reviewing service provision and access to ensure that Queenslanders have access to high quality healthcare as close to home as possible. Since the introduction of the Act, Queensland Health has continued to review access for women and pregnant people and is currently undertaking a comprehensive review in consultation with consumers, stakeholders and Hospital and Health Services. As part of the review Queensland Health is developing an action plan that considers how women and pregnant people can access sustainable services as close to home as possible. This action plan is proposed to be made available later this year.