



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2026

MSI Australia welcomes commitment to free abortion care in Victoria

MSI Australia has welcomed a commitment that, if re-elected, the Victorian Government would make abortion care free in Victoria, removing out-of-pocket costs for medical and surgical abortion up to 16 weeks at participating providers.

Minister for Health Ingrid Stitt announced the commitment today at Women's Health Victoria.

MSI Australia CEO Adurty Rao said cost had been one of the biggest barriers left in Victoria, and that it fell hardest on the women least able to carry it.

"Every week, women ring us and ask if they can book in after their next pay," Ms Rao said. "While they wait, the weeks go by, and care that could have been simple gets harder. This commitment means no woman in Victoria should have to wait to get the urgent care she needs."

For women experiencing family violence or reproductive coercion, delay can also put them at risk.

"For a woman leaving a violent and controlling relationship, time matters more than anything," Ms Rao said. "Sometimes she has days, not weeks, before the perpetrator finds out. When she has to find the money first, cost and delay become barriers at the worst possible time. Free care means she can act quickly and safely on her own terms."

MSI Australia cares for women across Victoria in its clinics and increasingly through its telehealth service, which reaches women in regional and rural areas without them having to travel. Its related organisation, MS Health, supplies the abortion medicine MS-2 Step, which under this announcement would be free at participating providers.

Ms Rao said the commitment was the result of years of work by many people.

"Change like this doesn't happen overnight," she said. "Women's health organisations, doctors, nurses, pharmacists and researchers have been building this case for years. And most of all, women have shared their own stories, often at real personal cost. Their voices made the difference. We thank the Minister for listening."

With the state election six weeks away, Ms Rao called on every party to match the commitment.

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“Every woman in Victoria should be able to make decisions about her own body and get the care she needs. That shouldn’t depend on who wins an election,” she said. “We’re asking every political party to make the same commitment, so women in Victoria know this care will be there for them, whoever forms government.”

MSI Australia will work with the Government, public hospitals, the Sexual and Reproductive Health Hubs and GPs to make the change work across the state.

“A woman’s freedom to decide is only real if she can get the care she needs,” Ms Rao said. “No woman in Victoria should be denied safe abortion care because of where she lives or what’s in her bank account”.

ENDS

About MSI Australia: MSI Australia is a not-for-profit provider of sexual and reproductive healthcare, with clinics across Australia and a national telehealth service. Its related entity MS Health, a not-for-profit pharmaceutical company, is the Australian sponsor of the abortion medicine MS-2 Step. MSI Australia’s Choice Fund, a national hardship fund, helps cover the cost of care for women who can’t afford it.

If this release raises concerns for you, please contact 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732, or Safe Steps on 1800 015 188 (24 hours, Victoria).

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