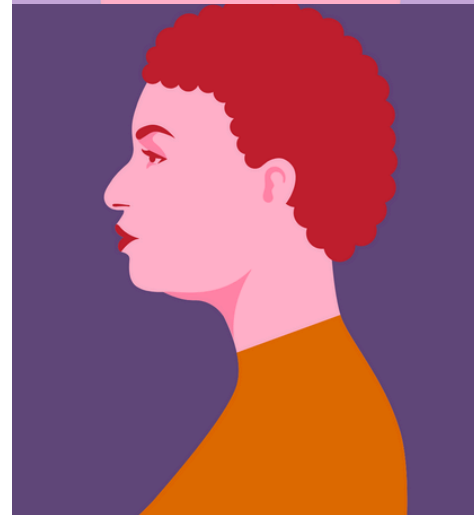
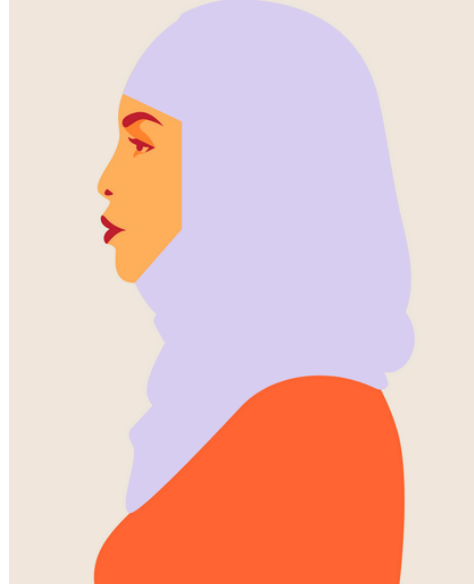
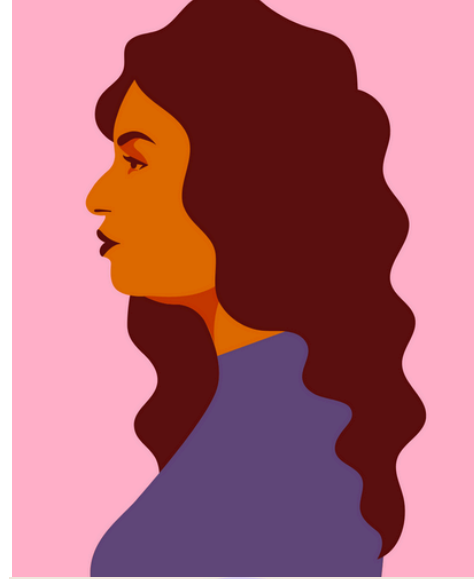


2025 ANNUAL REPORT



CHILDREN BY CHOICE
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE ABORIGINAL LAND

Children by Choice acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.

In particular, we acknowledge the Turrbal and Jagera peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the lands north and south of the Brisbane River, where our office stands. We also acknowledge all First Nations peoples across Queensland, on whose lands we deliver our work.

Children by Choice operates within a reproductive justice framework that emphasises bodily autonomy, intersectional feminism, and addressing marginalised groups. We acknowledge the harmful impact the reproductive health space has had on First Nations people and will continue to strive for equity, access and understanding.

Children by Choice aims to create a culturally safe workplace by improving First Nations representation and building relationships with communities.

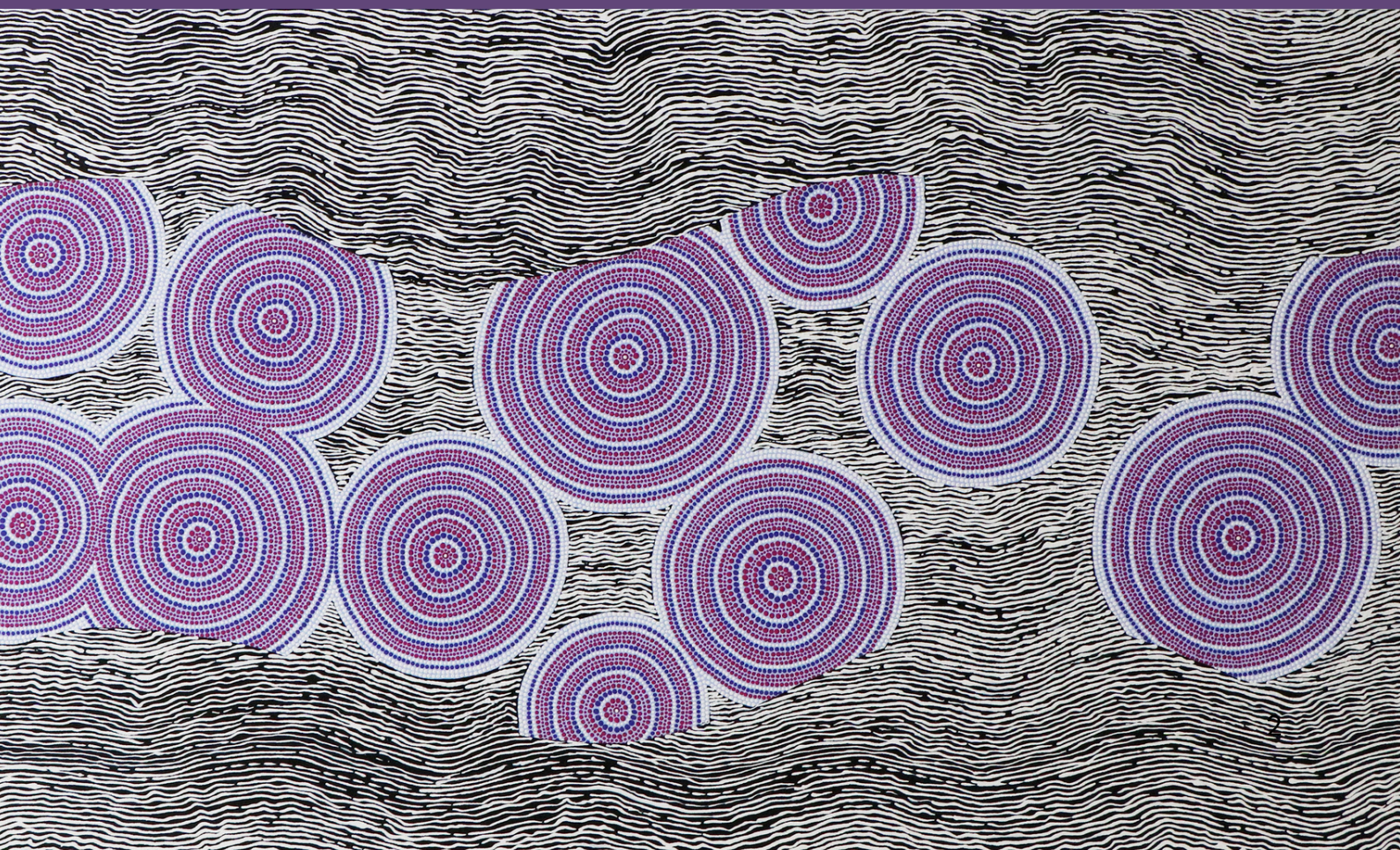


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A year in review

A year of transformation, growth and innovation.

This year, Children by Choice experienced extraordinary growth and expanded our impact across Queensland. Our work continued to centre upon reproductive justice, compassion, and courageous advocacy for people's right to make their own reproductive choices.

We thank the Department of Families, Senior, Disability Service and Child Safety for their continued funding of our telephone line and community engagement, and welcome the new funding contract with Queensland Health which has enabled us to expand and diversify our work. Our telephone lines are now open six days a week with extended hours, and we have increased the training and support we offer to our community and health sector.

The team at Children by Choice has grown from 7.8 FTE to 16.2 FTE. This growth has resulted in:

- A **40% decrease** in the service's **reliance on voicemail**, for people seeking support on our telephone line
- Engagement with a **new client every 75 minutes**
- Distribution of **\$125,000 in brokerage** funds
- Our engagement team reaching **12k+ professionals and consumers**
- Commencing three new initiatives
 - **Reflective Rounds** (supporting abortion care providers)
 - **HHS Training** (Providing training to Queensland Health professionals)
 - **Consumer Advisory Group** (Supporting people to share their lived experience to guide system reform)

This financial year also saw our biggest **Reproductive Rights and Abortion Conference** yet. With 250 delegates, **76 speakers** and fantastic keynotes like **Dr Carol Portman, Isabelle Oderberg, Maddison Griffith**, and **Barbara Baird**. Our Reproductive Rights and Abortion Conference continues to be a highlight for the organisation and a commitment to our sector, as we aim to continue to bring together private, public, and community services, researchers, and advocates across Australia to further advance reproductive and abortion healthcare.

As we move into 2025–2026, our focus remains clear: accessible, inclusive, and compassionate reproductive healthcare for every person in Queensland.

In solidarity,



Toni van Tonder
Interim CEO



Dr Claire Mohr
President

Governance

Children by Choice is an Incorporated Association governed by a voluntary Management Committee (MC), elected by members of the organisation at the AGM each year.

The MC is responsible for the effective governance and financial management of Children by Choice and setting the strategic direction. Our current Strategic Plan runs from 2021 – 2026 and can be found on our website. Our strategic goals are focused on our clients, our team, the sector, and our organisation.

Roles and Responsibilities

The MC’s roles and responsibilities are set out in the CbyC Constitution and are supported by a Governance Charter. Members are equipped to fulfil their obligations to the organisation and stakeholders, and to ensure effective governance of CbyC.

Our volunteer Management Committee (MC) has demonstrated remarkable dedication and resilience through a challenging year, ensuring effective governance and a clear strategic direction for Children by Choice. Guided by our Constitution and Governance Charter, the MC has consistently met monthly, receiving detailed service and financial reports, engaging in transparent discussions, and making thoughtful, informed decisions. This collaborative approach, which includes participation from the CEO and rotating staff representatives, reinforces our commitment to feminist governance principles and transparency. Moving into the 2025–2026 year we are consolidating our reporting requirements to receive quarterly service and financial reports to allow for a broader view on the progress of our initiatives and to enable oversight of long-term trends.

Our boards’ strength lies in its diversity, with members bringing a broad range of professional expertise—from banking and finance, health care, and policy development, to law, community services, journalism, human resources, and academic research. With specialist experience in finance, healthcare, and law, our board boasts a breadth of knowledge that supports sound governance and a steady, reliable hand in steering the organisation.

To enhance decision-making, the MC maintains dedicated subcommittees for risk and finance, as well as policy and governance, each backed by staff involvement. MC members also contribute to working groups such as the Conference Working Group, further supporting Children by Choice’s mission. This broad, skilled membership allows us to navigate challenges with integrity, ensuring that Children by Choice remains resilient and forward-focused, prepared to uphold reproductive rights and access across Queensland.

Current Members 24/25 FY

- **President:** Dr Claire Mohr
(Carly Hanson stepped down April 2025)
- **Secretary:** Dr Claire Mohr
- **Treasurer:** Renee Wyborn
- **General Member:** Asvini Subasinghe
- **General Member:** Kelly Sumner (Nov 2024)
- **General Member:** Shimbie Lewis (May 2025)
- **General Member:** Belinda Lewis (June 2025)

Former MC members 24/25 FY

- **General Member:** Carly Hanson (resigned June 2025)
- **General Member:** Katherine Kerr (resigned March 2025)
- **General Member:** Amy Wormwell (resigned May 2025)
- **General Member:** Christine Jackman: (resigned April 2025)
- **General Member:** Tamsin Gane (resigned Nov 2024)

Client Services

By Jenna Liddelow

Director – Client Services

This past year has been one of significant growth and development for the Client Services team. We have continued to refine our intake, assessment, and counselling practices to ensure our work is grounded in evidence and best practice for pregnancy options support. As a result of this focus, our **client engagement has more than tripled**, reflecting both the growing need for our services and the trust that people place in Children by Choice.

To sustain this growth and uphold quality of care, we have strengthened our team structure by embedding dedicated leadership positions within Client Services. These roles provide practice support and guidance, ensuring our counsellors and practitioners are well-supported to deliver compassionate, professional, and safe care.

A major milestone this year was the extension of our service hours to **8am–7pm, six days a week**. This change has enabled us to better meet the needs of people who are unable to access services during standard business hours, reducing barriers and improving equity of access.

We are also deeply grateful for the brokerage grant provided by Queensland Health, which has been transformative in reducing financial barriers to abortion care. This funding has supported pregnant people in overcoming the significant financial burden associated with accessing abortion, ensuring timely and compassionate access to essential healthcare.

Above all, we honour the stories of the people who reach out to us every day. Their experiences remain at the centre of our work, guiding our service delivery and reminding us of the profound responsibility we hold in providing care, support, and advocacy.

\$125K

Total financial support
to cover abortion-
related costs

227

Clients
accessed
financial
support

10x

total funding
distributed compared
to FY23/24

Client Service Key Data



IDENTIFIED RISKS

1 in 3

clients presented with at least one **safety risk**.

30%

of identified risks were Domestic and Family Violence, RCA, Intimate Partner Violence or Sexual Assault

REFERRALS

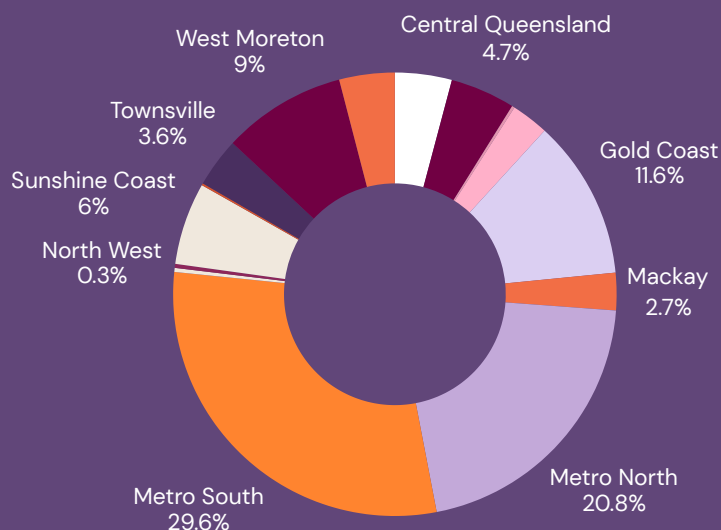
24%

of our clients were referred by support workers in **community services**

20%

of our clients were referred by **Primary Care and Sexual Health Practitioners**

HHS Catchment Areas



SERVICE PROVISION

17,737

total contacts with clients via telephone, email, text, or in-person

2735

Clients serviced

1 new client

every 75 minutes

10K
more client
interactions

1.2K+
increase in
number of
clients

3x the
amount of
intakes
completed

SERVICE USER PROFILES

9%

identify as First Nations people

7%

were born outside of Australia

23%

were from Rural and Regional areas

49%

are navigating their 20s

GESTATION AT FIRST CONTACT

76%

9 weeks and under

18%

10 - 16 weeks

0.5%

17 weeks and above

86%

contacted us within the first 13 weeks of pregnancy



Stories/Feedback



"I contacted Children by Choice seeking help with getting an abortion in secret while in a DV relationship. They assisted me with getting a taxi to and from a private abortion provider named MSI. I started the medical abortion process there and I was also offered counselling but did not require it as I was already receiving counselling from Children by Choice.

The nurses in this clinic were very kind and used some humour to make me less anxious. After taking the first dose of abortion pill I was sent home safely in a taxi by Children by Choice. I took my second dose at the requested time and my pregnancy was terminated. I passed this off as a miscarriage to my boyfriend." - Anonymous

"I found Children by Choice whilst in a crisis and unsure where else to turn to for support. I've never accessed any form of counselling or support in my life prior and I am grateful for such a kind and wonderful service that was easy to access." - Anonymous



"I felt a little weird, like my experience was outside the scope. I felt comforted by some validating statements but still felt as though I was wasting their time a little, because it was so far in the past. I feel like it's a beautiful and brilliant organisation and I wish I could have accessed it when my experiences were occurring, I imagine it would have been incredibly helpful then. I think perhaps my trauma around my experiences is too complex to be dealt with in this way and I definitely felt as though my method of intellectualising my feelings makes it hard for anyone to know how to support me because I sound as though I know all the things and have it all worked out. It's a me issue. I do thank my lovely counsellor for listening to me ramble through my stuff with such a lovely presence." - Anonymous

Different paths, different barriers: three pregnancy options journeys

The following three client stories illustrate the diverse realities of people navigating pregnancy options across Queensland. Each journey represents a unique intersection of barriers and enablers, from distance and cost, to visa status, stigma, and service availability.



Recently arrived migrant worker from Pacific Island Nation (Medicare ineligible) who has discovered she is pregnant. She has children in her home country who she sends money back for. She lives rurally where the closest public hospital is 1.5 hours drive away and she has no car and no insurance. There are some local GPs in town but no way to know if they are pro choice.



18 year old who contacts CbyC seeking information about abortion. Client lives in a metro area in QLD. She experiences irregular periods and has ongoing spotting due to PCOS, and is therefore unsure of her gestation.



36 year old woman living regionally outside of South East QLD. She has two children with her husband. She went to a GP who confirmed her pregnancy via ultrasound which shows she is 5 weeks pregnant. The GP is on CbyC's map and referred to CbyC due to indicators of ambivalence regarding her pregnancy and stressors in her relationship.

Different paths, different barriers: three pregnancy options journeys



Reproductive Rights and Abortion Conference 2024

Act for Access

Children by Choice hosted our Reproductive Rights and Abortion Conference across two days, on the 8th and 9th of August 2024

The 2024 Reproductive Rights and Abortion Conference, held on August 8th and 9th at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre, marked the 7th biennial event since its inception in 2008. Hosted by Children by Choice, this year's conference focused on advancing compassionate abortion care and advocating for expanded access to reproductive healthcare across Australia.

The conference successfully brought together healthcare providers, allied health professionals, advocates, and researchers committed to driving change in reproductive justice. Attendees engaged with leading experts, participated in workshops and panels on accessibility and advocacy, and networked with peers dedicated to compassionate care. The event also featured a lively conference social event on the evening of the first day, enhancing opportunities for networking and collaboration. Participants left with innovative insights and practical tools to further their advocacy and care practices.



Keynote/Guest Speakers



Dr. Carol Portmann

Is an Australian trained obstetrician and gynaecologist specialising in Maternal Fetal Medicine, and has a Masters of Applied Science in Prenatal Genetics and Fetal Medicine from University College London.



Isabelle Oderberg

Has worked as a journalist for two decades in newswires across Europe, Asia, and Australia, where she was the country's first social media editor for Melbourne's Herald Sun. Her work has appeared in The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Guardian, ABC, and elsewhere. Isabelle is also the author of *Hard to Bear: Investigating the Science and Silence of Miscarriage*, her first book.



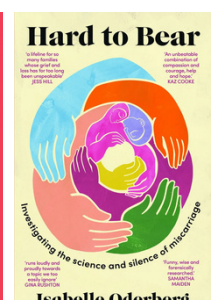
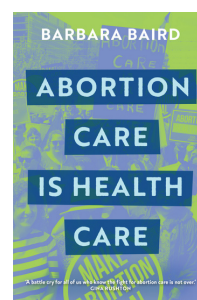
Madison Griffiths

Madison Griffiths is an author, artist and producer. Her debut book *Tissue*, published by Ultimo Press in 2023, is a boldly poetic meditation on abortion and what it has the power to represent. She is also the co-producer of *Tender*, a podcast that tracks the journey of individuals as they decide to leave abusive relationships.



Dr. Barbara Baird

Works in Women's and Gender Studies at Flinders University. Her research examines the history and politics of sexuality and reproduction in C20th and C21st Australia, with a particular focus on abortion. She is the author of *Abortion Care is Health Care* (2023), and co-author of *Personal Politics: Sexuality, Gender and Remaking of Citizenship in Australia* (Monash University Publishing, 2024).





 **250**
delegates

 **76**
presentations

 **12,000**
impressions on
social media

 **8**
conference
sponsors

 **97%**
attendees reported
overall satisfaction

 **93%**
Left the conference
feeling "very" or
"somewhat" connected
to the greater sector

"This was our first CbyC conference, and we found it very useful. It was a great opportunity to connect and we look forward to future events."

- Exhibit Partner



***"IT IS MY FAVORITE
CONFERENCE –
IT IS SUCH
A WELCOMING AND
SUPPORTIVE SPACE.
I HAVEN'T STOPPED
TALKING ABOUT IT"***

– Feedback from
Conference Delegate



SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

By Christy Fischer

Director – Sector Development

The Sector Development Team (formerly the Community Engagement Team) has expanded significantly this year, with additional funding from Queensland Health. Our portfolio now spans community engagement, stakeholder partnerships, consumer advisory, and reflective practice initiatives and training within the Hospital and Health Services (HHS). Over the past year, we have both explored new areas of need and launched new initiatives, while continuing to deliver the work Children by Choice is recognised for.

Through this growth, we have extended our reach across the reproductive health sector by establishing three major bodies of work:

HHS Training

With new funding from Queensland Health, Children by Choice has developed and delivered in-person and online training packages for health professionals involved in abortion care, including nurses, midwives, doctors, radiographers, sonographers, social workers, pharmacists, and anaesthetists. Training focuses on pregnancy options, reproductive coercion and abuse, and navigating individual values and conscientious objection effectively.

Reflective Rounds

Reflective Rounds are structured, facilitated sessions that provide health professionals with a safe space to reflect on the challenges of their work in abortion care. Developed in collaboration with Dr. Shelly Makleff, Dr. Jessica Moulton, and Sasha Black, this pilot program supports Queensland Health staff to pause, process, and connect.

Consumer Advisory Group

This initiative centres the voices of women and people who can become pregnant, highlighting barriers to safe, affirming, and culturally appropriate abortion care. It prioritises engagement with:

- LGBTQIA+ people
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities
- People with disabilities
- Rural and remote communities
- People with justice system experience, including women in custody
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

The project is delivered in three phases, focusing on scoping and data collection, building relationships with consumers and specialist services, and co-designing recommendations and resources to improve access.

Sector Coordination

We continue to strengthen collaboration across public and private healthcare services, undertaking stakeholder mapping and partnership planning to increase access to reproductive and abortion services statewide.

Community Engagement

Our community presence has grown through participation in community stalls, in-service training, webinars, and delivery of Children by Choice core training. Planning is also underway for the next Reproductive Rights and Abortion Conference 2026.

Community Engagement

“The presenters were able to answer all of my questions and had heaps of knowledge around all types of contraception.”

– Training participant



801

professionals and tertiary students trained



98%

were satisfied with the training quality



16

training and webinar sessions delivered



75

Networking and Stakeholder engagement meetings

“Very thankful for this event, found it very beneficial! My specific learning style means I learn best from examples and comparisons, so I really enjoyed the analogies and case study examples.”

– Training participant



Key activities and events

Delivered core training

- Introduction to Pregnancy Options
- Introduction to Reproductive Coercion and Abuse
- Introduction to Post Abortion Support
- Introduction to Reproductive Rights Work

Webinars

- Abortion Support Person Training
- Abortion Stigma
- Reproductive Coercion and Abuse
- How to Spot an Anti-Choice Pregnancy Support Service
- Finding the Right Contraception



Highlights

“The facilitator was such a knowledgeable person to receive this valuable training from, she delivered all of the information in a way that was professional but allowed for her personal values of inclusivity to shine through in a really natural and affirming way. Lene created a safe space for all questions and I appreciated how conversational the training was able to be”

–Training participant



Hospital and Health Services Training



Children by Choice is pleased to have received funding to deliver training to health professionals involved in abortion care across Queensland. Over the past 12 months, our team has worked closely with Hospital and Health Services to design evidence-based, practical training that responds to workforce needs. Core modules cover pregnancy options, reproductive coercion and abuse (RCA), and conscientious objection within the Queensland legislative framework.

The training is designed to:

- Deepen understanding of pregnancy options and compassionate abortion care
- Support the identification of, and response to, reproductive coercion and abuse
- Examine the impact and management of conscientious objection in practice
- Strengthen confidence in providing rights-based, trauma-informed care
- Create space for reflection on values and bias, and their influence on professional practice

We are planning to deliver training to every HHS within QLD over the next 12-24 months

Participants who attended the training provided the following feedback:

- “
- Great psychological safety
 - Presenters are fantastic
 - Engaging and presented in a fun way for a serious topic
 - Very engaging and approachable
 - Lots of good examples and time to talk
 - Fun and informative. Heavy content but presented in a great way to keep our focus
 - Great information
 - Loved the presenter's knowledge, humour and passion ”



5

HHS Trainings Delivered



92

Health practitioners trained

Consumer Advisory Group

Children by Choice is proud to be at the forefront of lived experience engagement, leading efforts to create systemic change through the power of shared stories and authentic collaboration. We recognise that the most effective and lasting improvements in reproductive healthcare come when those directly affected are meaningfully involved in shaping the systems that serve them.

Our Consumer Advisory Group brings together individuals with lived experience of accessing abortion care in Queensland, to help identify barriers, highlight gaps in service delivery, and co-design solutions that improve access for all. By centring the voices of people with lived experience, we ensure that our advocacy, education, and service design efforts remain grounded in real-world experience and are informed by diverse perspectives.

At the heart of this work is a commitment to equity and inclusion. Every person deserves the right to safe, respectful, and culturally appropriate abortion care; regardless of their sexuality, cultural background, migration or refugee experience, disability, or involvement with the justice system. Through the Consumer Advisory Group, Children by Choice is connecting people from all walks of life to shape policies and practices that better reflect the complexity and diversity of the communities we serve.

Reflective Rounds

Reflective Rounds are structured, facilitated group sessions designed to give Queensland Health staff working in abortion care a safe space to pause, process, and connect. Unlike supervision or counselling, they focus on reflection and shared experience, helping staff explore the personal impact of their work in a supportive, non-judgemental environment.

Clinical and managerial staff will participate in closed, multidisciplinary groups that build trust and foster open dialogue.

Goals of Reflective Rounds

- Support emotional wellbeing and reduce burnout by providing space to process workplace stress and vicarious trauma.
- Reduce stigma and enhance compassionate, rights-based abortion care through values reflection.
- Improve clinical practice and patient outcomes by deepening empathy and awareness of professional responsibility.
- Strengthen team cohesion, communication, and trust in multidisciplinary settings.
- Build metacognitive capacity—assist staff to reflect on their own ways of thinking, and adaptive responses, in complex care environments.

Research shows that teams who participate in Reflective Rounds benefit from improved trust, communication, and conflict resolution, and organisations benefit from healthier workplace cultures, with reduced turnover, and stronger uptake of trauma-informed practice.

Digital Impact

Website



118,000

active users of our website



15,000

Abortion and Contraception
Services Map users

Top website pages accessed



Children by Choice: Support for all Pregnancy Options



Abortion Rates in Australia



How Much Does an Abortion Cost



Social Media

Across LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook



12,553

followers and subscribers
across our channels



330,000

engagement and reach
across our social media
channels



3,345

+1K subscribers to CbyC
newsletter since last
financial year



19.6k 444



9.3k 290



6.6K 247



6.3K 445

Collaboration

We collaborate and participate in working groups and committees to ensure reproductive autonomy and justice remains at the forefront of important discussions within these groups:

- Women's Health Service Alliance- Queensland
- Termination of Pregnancy Working Group
- Termination of Pregnancy Community of Practice
- Ending Violence Against Women
- True Culturally Responsible Health Advisory Group
- SPHERE Coalition of Sexual and Reproductive Health in Australia
- QCOSS Community Services CEO Network
- QCOSS Women's Equality Network
- National Community of Practice in Women's Health and Gender Equity



Our Supporters

We thank and show genuine appreciation for all our donors and supporters, other organisations connected to ours, and our clients. With your continuing support, we look forward to continuing this work for many more years to come.

Reproductive Rights and Abortion Conference 2024

True Relationships and Reproductive Health, Catholics for Choice, ASHM, Queensland Unions, Avid Reader, The Centre For Women & Co and the Collective Creatives.

Our Funders



Contact us

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