

ABORTION IN A GLOBAL WORLD: USING TECHNOLOGY TO CROSS NATIONAL BORDERS

This presentation will provide insights into how technology is being harnessed to provide access to safe abortion across the globe, including in countries where abortion is legally restricted. While previously only women with money or influence would access safe abortion through travel or other means, the internet has opened options which transcend traditional borders. The introduction of medical abortion using mifepristone in addition to surgical options in the 1990s allowed for innovations, led by The Netherlands, including the Women on Waves and Women on Web initiatives. Women on Web is a global digital community of women, clinicians, researchers and individuals and organizations that support abortion rights and provides services to women in countries as diverse as Poland, Mexico and The Republic of Ireland. A recent evaluation of the delivery of medical abortion to 1000 women who underwent self-sourced medical abortion through Women on Web (WoW) found that outcomes compare favourably with in-clinic protocols. Insights from the global digital delivery of safe abortion can support the optimal services for Australasian women where access can still be extremely challenging due to remoteness as well as privacy and confidentiality concerns.
