

“DON’T LET ANYONE CLOSE THIS PLACE DOWN”.

PREGNANCY ADVISORY CENTRE –

A PUBLIC HEALTH MODEL OF ABORTION CARE.

TESSA MOODY^{1,2}, LOTTIE PRITCHARD^{1,3} JANE BAIRD¹

¹ Pregnancy Advisory Centre, Adelaide, Australia ² Shine SA, Adelaide, Australia

³ Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide, Australia



INTRODUCTION

The Pregnancy Advisory Centre (PAC) in South Australia is a unique model of care in the Australian abortion provision sector: a publicly funded, multidisciplinary, freestanding service that provides specialised medical and surgical abortion care.

We present the key aspects of our model of care in the hope this may assist interstate providers to advocate within their own public health care systems.

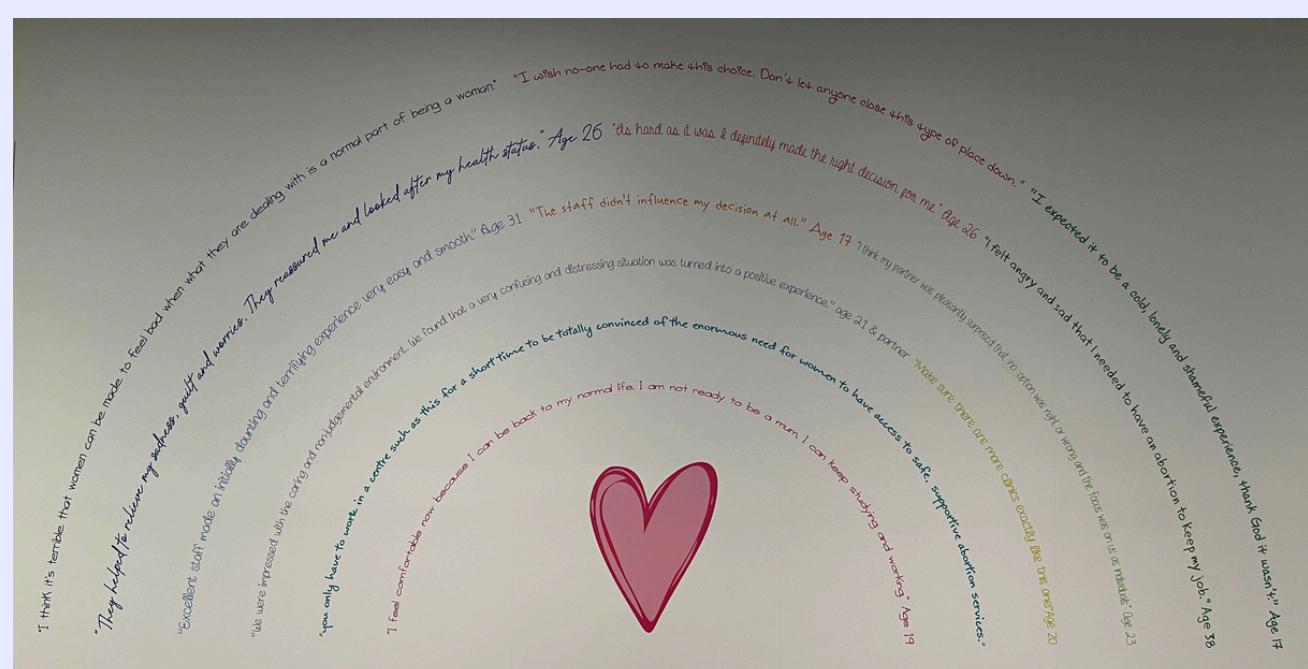


Figure 1: Mural featuring quotes from patients and staff

FUTURE CHALLENGES

Providing gold-standard care for second-trimester services >24 weeks, as the surgical service is not co-located with a maternity hospital.

There is need for **publicly funded telehealth medical abortion services** for rural and remote areas; this vital service is currently provided privately at cost to patients.

PAC does not currently employ an **Aboriginal Health Worker** - an AHW as part of our multidisciplinary team would improve culturally safe access for First Nations patients.

CONCLUSION

Limited availability of affordable abortion care is the next barrier to access in Australia. **Abortion care belongs within the public health care system as essential healthcare.** PAC aims to provide abortion care that is high quality, pro-choice and person-centred.

KEY ASPECTS OF PAC MODEL OF CARE

Bedside ultrasound services located on site, which enables a single appointment for those choosing medical abortion, and eliminates costs associated with private radiology.

Apprentice-based model for training future surgical abortion providers, including interstate doctors.
Doctors who hold a FRACGP and/or DRANZCOG are supervised by experienced senior consultants in surgical techniques for second trimester abortion.

Social work counselling services located on site.
The highly specialised team of social workers provides decision-making and family and domestic violence counselling services, at no additional cost.

Capacity to fund face-to-face interpreters to increase access for culturally and linguistically diverse patients. Interpreters are a skilled cohort of pro-choice women.

Same-day surgical service for rural/ remote patients. Clinic assessment takes place in the morning, and surgical service in the afternoon, to reduce travel costs.

Nurse and midwife staff working to the top of their scope. All nurses work across both surgical and clinic settings, across a wide variety of roles and skills.

Administrative staff are trained to triage appointments based on likely gestation, and collect data on outcomes. South Australia's data is extrapolated to inform service provision and advocacy nation-wide.

2024: Abortion access at Pregnancy Advisory Centre (*total client attendance* = 3,343)

