

Queensland Virtual Early Medical Termination of Pregnancy Service (QVEMTOPS) 1 year on – care provided and lessons learnt.

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Background/Purpose:

Despite decriminalisation of abortion in 2018, many pregnant Queenslanders face significant challenges and inequities in accessing termination of pregnancy care. The Queensland Virtual Early Medical Termination of Pregnancy Service (QVEMTOPS) was set up to improve access and equity in reproductive care for Queenslanders by providing early MTOP via telehealth, the first public service of its kind in Australia, launching in April 2025.

Approach:

Care was provided following Queensland Clinical Guidelines including MTOP without ultrasound based on criteria. Routine clinical data and priority population status were collected through entry and progress through QVEMTOPS. From May 2024, clients were invited to complete a patient-reported experience survey after discharge. From November 2025, endorsed midwives were added as prescribers.

Outcomes/Impact:

Demand for QVEMTOPS increased significantly with a total of 2775 referrals received – 71 in April 2025 increasing to 389 in Jan 2026. 1813 MTOP consultations were performed. 78% of clients belonged to priority populations. 21% had MTOP without ultrasound and follow-up showed a <1% serious complication rate with no serious complications in the no-scan cohort.

Through PREMS, 94% rated the overall service as very good and none as poor or very poor. 98% felt they were always treated with dignity and respect and 96% always felt listened to during their care.

Innovation and Significance:

QVEMTOPS has improved access to MTOP in Queensland particularly in priority populations. Clients reported positively on their experiences in the service. Other states should consider adding telehealth MTOP through the public service as part of measures to improve access and equity of reproductive care.

please note data is reported for 10 months of QVEMTOPS Apr-Feb 2026 – if successful we will update with data for the full 12 months.

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