

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern, layered effect on the right side of the slide.

Lest We Forget

Those who do not learn  
from history are  
condemned to repeat it

# History of Abortion Aotearoa

- ▶ 1. Pre-colonial Maori - whakatahe
- ▶ 2. **Pre 1908 - harsh English law** - declared guilty of felony, and shall be liable to be fined, imprisoned, set in and upon the pillory, public or privately whipped, or transported beyond the sea for any term not exceeding fourteen years
- ▶ 3. **1908 - Crimes Act** - 14 years jail
- ▶ 4. **1978 - CSA Act 1977, Crimes Act 1961, Care of Children Act 2004**
- ▶ 5. **2020 - Abortion Legislation Act 2020**

# Pre 1978

- ▶ Abortion was a crime
- ▶ Abortionists were fined and went to prison
  - ▶ Women had backstreet abortions
  - ▶ Women died from unsafe abortion
- ▶ Women became infertile because of unsafe abortion
- ▶ Newborns were taken off their mothers - forced adoption
  - ▶ Children born out of wedlock sent to orphanages
  - ▶ Women had to go to Australia for abortion (1970s)



# **ABORTION** *must be Stamped out!*

*This is what the McMillan Report on  
Abortion said in 1937:*

*"It has been estimated that at least one pregnancy  
in every five ends in abortion; in other words  
that some 6000 abortions occur in New Zealand  
every year. Of these it is believed that 4000, at a  
conservative estimate, are criminally induced..."*

*That was 10 years ago. Today abortion is still  
inexcusably high.*

*A recent group survey showed that for every 100  
births there were seven accidental abortions (mis-  
carriages) and THIRTEEN induced abortions.*

*Illegally induced abortion is a crime against woman-  
hood and against humanity. Those who condone  
it are as guilty as those who practise it.*

*Accidental abortion is best prevented by antenatal  
care.*

*Public conscience and public opinion can fight for  
safe and sane motherhood.*

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



*Keep this announcement for future reference.*

11c

Department of Health pamphlet from 1940s referring to the  
McMillan report of 1937. Copyright Ministry of Health.

Alexander Turnbull Library Ephemera Collection



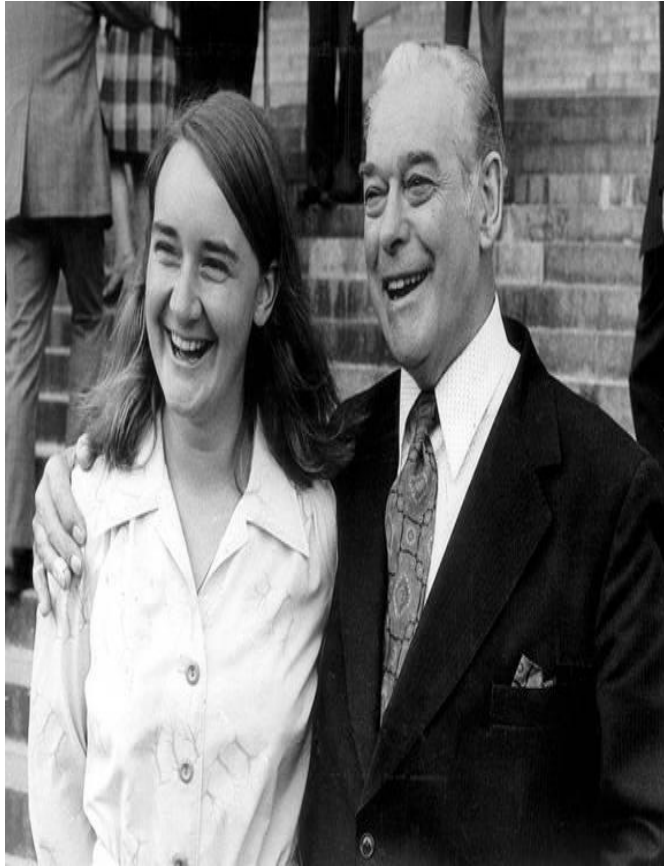
1979



2019



# Marilyn Waring



**marilyn  
waring**

the  
political  
years

# 1978 - 2020

Abortion became available- tiptoeing though CS&A legislation

Abortion became safe

Services developed ad-hoc - partly because of it still sitting under the Crimes Act and low priority of Women's Healthcare

Huge variation in service delivery between DHBs

DHBs often outsourced the work - too hard basket

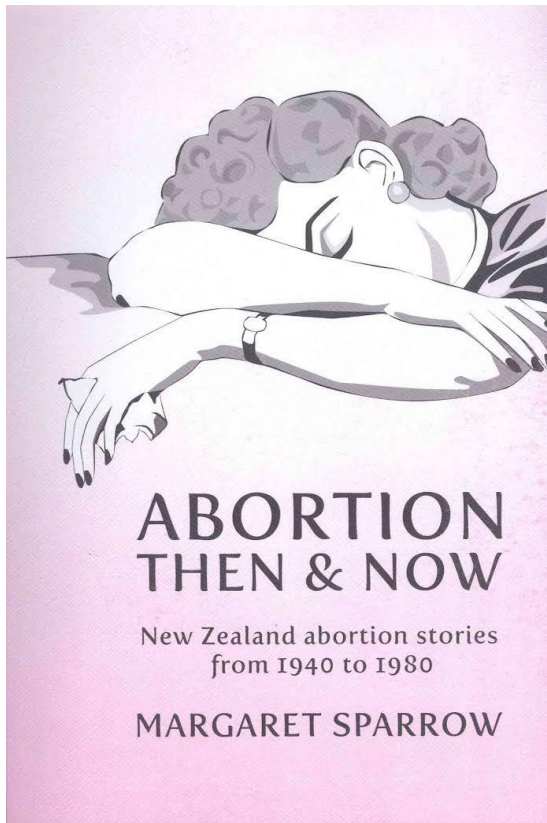
A few providers did a large amount of work



# PERSPECTIVES FROM THE PAST

|                        | 1940                   | 2021                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Aotearoa NZ population | 1,700,000              | 5,123,000                   |
| Abortions              | 4,000                  | 13,246                      |
| Abortions per 100,000  | 235                    | 259                         |
| Deaths from abortion   | 22                     | 0                           |
| Head of State          | King George VI         | QE II                       |
| Governor General       | Sir Cyril Newall       | Dame Cindy Kiro             |
| Prime Minister         | Peter Fraser           | Jacinda Ardern              |
| Chief Justice          | Sir Michael Myers      | Justice Helen Winkelmann    |
| O&G trainees NZ        | RCOG Nearly all male   | RANZCOG trainees 83% female |
| GP trainees NZ         | RNZCGP nearly all male | RNZCGP trainees 60% female  |

# Dame Margaret Sparrow



# Abortion Legislation Act 2020

- ▶ **Provision of abortion services to women not more than 20 weeks pregnant**
- ▶ A qualified health practitioner may provide abortion services to a woman who is not more than 20 weeks pregnant.

# Abortion Legislation Act 2020

- ▶ **Provision of abortion services to women more than 20 weeks pregnant**
- ▶ clinically appropriate in the circumstances
- ▶ consult at least 1 other qualified health practitioner
- ▶ have regard to—
- ▶ all relevant legal, professional, and ethical standards to which the qualified health practitioner is subject; and
- ▶ the woman's—physical health; mental health; overall well-being; the gestational age of the fetus.
- ▶ does not apply in a medical emergency.

# Abortion Legislation Act 2022

- ▶ **Counselling**
- ▶ **Self-referral Conscientious objection**
- ▶ **Employer providing services must accommodate conscientious objection of employee unless it would cause unreasonable disruption**
- ▶ **Minister of Health to ensure availability of certain services**
- ▶ **Director-General - undertake periodic reviews**
- ▶ **Director-General - make available list of abortion service providers**
- ▶ **Director-General - collect, collate, analyse, and publish information**
- ▶ **Abortion service notify Director-General about abortion services provided**
- ▶ **Sex selection**
- ▶ **Reports to be presented to House of Representatives**



# Advantages of Law Reform

- ▶ Self referral to abortion services
- ▶ Earlier gestation at abortion
- ▶ More choice of abortion method
- ▶ No need to be interviewed by 2 CC's
- ▶ Medications for EMA can be taken at home
- ▶ Health practitioners other than doctors can provide abortion care
- ▶ Less stigma for women having abortion
- ▶ Less stigma for abortion providers
- ▶ Less bureaucracy and paperwork
- ▶ No money on ASC and CC fees

# Unintended consequences of Law Reform

- More EMA means less LARC
- More acute admission/ERPOC ?
  - Less engagement with GP
- No funding for abortion in Primary Care
- Less accurate abortion statistics ?

# AOTEAROA ABORTION CARE 2022

- ▶ 1. AVAILABLE, SAFE, LEGAL, FREE to consumer yeah, terrific, fantastic, awesome
- ▶ 5. WOMEN CENTRED - CHOICE - ACCESS - QUALITY - CULTURALLY SAFE yeh nah

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Where do I get started?



- ▶ <https://www.apganz.org.nz/>
- ▶ <https://www.nzcsrh.org.nz/>
- ▶ <https://bpac.org.nz/update-series/nzcsrh/ema/>
- ▶ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0006/latest/LMS2376>
- ▶ <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/new-zealand-aotearoa-abortion-clinical-guideline>





GPs provide most of NZ women's  
health care

Abortion care is women's health  
care