

25 August 2023

Dr Benjamin Bopp

President

Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
(RANZCOG)

By email: womenshealth@ranzcp.edu.au

Dear Dr Bopp,

Re: Consultation on the RANZCOG Clinical Guideline for Abortion Care: an evidence based guideline on abortion care in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the consultation on the new RANZCOG Clinical Guideline for Abortion Care.

The RANZCP is the principal organisation representing the medical specialty of psychiatry in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand and is responsible for training, educating, and representing psychiatrists. The RANZCP represents more than 8,000 members, including more than 5,500 qualified psychiatrists, and is guided on policy and practice matters by a range of expert committees.

The RANZCP welcomes this guideline as a resource for health care practitioners who provide advice and abortion care, as part of an overall strategy to improve access to safe, quality abortion.

Women with mental illness accessing abortion care may present with particular risks and vulnerabilities. It is recognised that this guideline has been prepared in regard to general circumstances and therefore does not make provision for specific factors relating to abortion for women with mental illness. The RANZCP welcomes acknowledgement within the guideline that each practitioner should have regard to the particular circumstances of each case, and that clinical care should be responsive to the needs of the individual person and abortion, including psycho-social, cultural and spiritual needs. This should include involvement of a psychiatrist as necessary.

If you would like to discuss abortion care and women with mental illness further, please contact Nicola Wright, Executive Manager, Policy, Practice, and Research via nicola.wright@ranzcp.org or on (03) 9236 9103.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Elizabeth Moore

President

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