

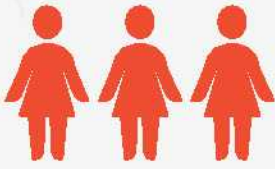
The Voices of Wāhine

Improving access to abortion in Aotearoa New Zealand

WHY THIS STUDY?

In March 2020, the law changed to improve access to abortion care in Aotearoa New Zealand. We wanted to hear what wāhine want and need in abortion care, especially wāhine Māori and Pacific women. What works and what still needs to be improved? In 2023 we asked wāhine and whānau about their thoughts and experiences of abortion care. Wāhine could take part in a survey, an interview with a researcher, or both. We also interviewed people who work in abortion care. The answers are valuable and can be used to make improvements.

HOW MANY PEOPLE TOOK PART?



126 Wāhine did the survey



Seven wāhine and whānau took part in an interview



13 healthcare providers took part in an interview

WHAT DID WE FIND?

To wāhine, the abortion procedure itself is only one part of abortion care. Much has been done to make abortion care better and easier for all wāhine. We must protect this progress. There is still more to do to improve abortion care for everyone.

WHAT MAKES ABORTION CARE FAIR, CULTURALLY SAFE AND EASY TO ACCESS?

Culturally safe staff at all steps of the abortion care pathway.



An offer of counselling before and after an abortion.

Being able to book directly with an abortion service.



Removing time and cost barriers.

Knowing how to book directly.



Offering a choice of contraception more than once. Making it easy to get.

Being able to choose telehealth or in-person care.



Caring for whānau who are supporting wāhine.

Clear and correct information about what to expect at all steps.



No contact with protesters.

WHAT NEXT?

We made suggestions for government, health services and healthcare providers to improve abortion care.

To all who took part in this study - Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou. We are grateful for your time and allowing us to share your stories. We hope our collective efforts bring to light the voices of wāhine.

**Me aro koe ki te hā o Hine-ahu-one.
Pay heed to the dignity of women.**

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Please contact us if you would like to know more:
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