



# Abortion options



## What are your options?

Abortion, or termination of pregnancy, is a safe medical procedure used to end a pregnancy through surgical intervention (surgical abortion) or by taking medication that causes the contents of the uterus to be expelled (medical abortion).

At MSI Australia we understand that women and pregnant people at all stages of their reproductive life can find themselves faced with having to make the difficult decision to terminate a pregnancy.

Our services provide women with a supportive, compassionate and confidential environment in which to discuss and assess available options. We assist you in deciding the right choice for you, depending on your preferences and the stage of the pregnancy.

It is important that you consider your options carefully and make an informed decision.

## Who can help you decide?

You should make the final decision as to how you would like to proceed; however, we understand that an unplanned pregnancy can be confusing and distressing, and that you may want to talk about your options with a caring and supportive professional.

For this reason, we provide free decision based counselling via telephone, giving you a chance to discuss your situation with a trained pregnancy advice counsellor. Sessions are confidential, non judgemental and free; we want to help you make the decision that is right for you.

To make an appointment, visit **[msiaustralia.org.au](https://msiaustralia.org.au)**

## Is abortion legal in Australia?

Abortion laws in Australia differ from state to state. You can legally access abortion services anywhere in Australia if you comply with the relevant legislation. Most often, there are restrictions on gestation. For more information on what gestation limits may apply to you, please visit our website or call us.

## Which type of abortion is best?

There are two types of abortion – a surgical procedure or a medical process where you take tablets instead of having surgery. Both methods are safe and effective methods of terminating a pregnancy.

A surgical procedure usually requires anaesthetic and is performed in a clinical procedure room.

A medical process requires you to take two types of tablets to bring on a miscarriage 24-48 hours apart. This method is suitable only for early pregnancies (<9 weeks.)

The right option for you may depend on how far your pregnancy has advanced, your general health, medical conditions and your own personal preference.

Both procedures are supported by 24 hour support line for any concerns or questions you may have after the termination.

## How much does an abortion cost?

If you have a Medicare card, some of the cost will be covered by Medicare. There is, however, an out of pocket cost, as with most private medical treatments or day surgery procedures.

The cost varies according to a number of factors, including:

- the facility you attend
- your gestation (how far along you are in the pregnancy)
- the type of procedure you choose (medical or surgical)
- whether you have private health insurance.

If you have private health insurance, then you may be covered by your policy. You should contact your insurer directly for this information.

For an exact cost relevant to your circumstances please visit **[msiaustralia.org.au](https://msiaustralia.org.au)**

## Is having an abortion safe?

Early gestation abortion is one of the safest procedures carried out in hospitals and clinics throughout the world.

However, you should be aware that there are a small number of possible complications associated with surgical or medical abortion. Please see detailed information at [mariestopes.org.au](http://mariestopes.org.au).

Even though the risk of complications is small, we will provide you with detailed information and seek your informed consent prior to your procedure.

## Interested in effortless contraception?

One in two Australian women will have an unplanned pregnancy. Many unplanned pregnancies are caused by a contraceptive failure, such as forgetting to take the pill, or having a condom break.

Long acting reversible contraception methods (IUD, contraceptive implant, etc.) are more than 99% effective and dramatically reduce the risk of unplanned pregnancy.

We can fit a method of long acting contraception after your procedure. To find out which method suits you best, speak to the nurse or doctor at your appointment or use our contraception advisor at [contraception.org.au](http://contraception.org.au).

## Why MSI Australia?

MSI Australia is the only nationally accredited contraception and safe abortion provider giving Australian women and men real reproductive choices. We are a social enterprise that invests our profits in providing women across the world with access to family planning.

Our network of day surgery clinics provide tens of thousands of women and men each year with the highest standard in sexual and reproductive care, while our non-profit pharmaceutical company, MS Health, brings innovative sexual and reproductive health medicines to the Australian market.

## Our National Contact Centre is open extended hours

**Monday to Thursday:** 7am–7pm

**Friday:** 7am–6pm

**Saturday:** 9am–5pm

**Sunday:** call back service

## 24 hour support line

Get immediately connected to the 24 hour aftercare nurse during or out of hours for free advice, or send us an online enquiry and we'll get back in touch the very next business day.

## We are accredited

All our day procedure facilities across Australia are independently accredited against the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards. For more information, or to provide feedback about our services, visit [msiaustralia.org.au](https://msiaustralia.org.au)



## We're not-for-profit

MSI Australia is part of the MSI Choices global partnership. Surplus proceeds are donated to our life-saving family planning and safe abortion programs in developing countries.

Did you know that every year 358,000 women die from pregnancy and childbirth related causes? Seventy thousand of these deaths are from unsafe abortion in developing countries where lack of access to contraception or quality, safe abortion services,





leaves women who want to end a pregnancy in a desperate situation.

More than 225 million women would like to use contraception but cannot get it. If they could, it would reduce the number of women who die from pregnancy related complications by one third.

To support our charity with a tax deductible donation, please visit **[msichoices.org.au](https://msichoices.org.au)**



## **Abortion**

Surgical abortion

Medical abortion in clinic

Teleabortion (Telehealth abortion)

## **Contraception**

Long acting reversible contraception

Vasectomy

Tubal ligation (WA only)

## **Support services**

Decision based counselling

24 hour support line

Interpreters available on request

**Call** 1300 003 707

**Visit** [msiaustralia.org.au](https://msiaustralia.org.au)

**Email** [info@msiaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@msiaustralia.org.au)

1604-MSIAU 220803