

Factors associated with the utilisation of abortion services: A survey among Family Planning NSW Talkline callers seeking information on unintended pregnancy and abortion

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Background

- It is difficult to get an abortion in NSWⁱ. Abortion is:
 - still on the criminal code in NSWⁱⁱ
 - rarely performed in public hospitalsⁱⁱⁱ
 - centralised in metro centres^{iv}
- It is expensive to get an abortion*
 - Limited bulk billed medical abortion providers and GP providers
 - Medical abortion[#] \$350-555
 - Surgical abortion \$400-2400
 - Surgical abortion over 20-24 weeks – not available in private clinics in NSW
- There is limited research about people accessing abortion in Australia/ NSW.^{iv}

Aim

- The study aims to understand what influences people to utilise abortion services to inform service development and implementation.

Methods

- An online survey was sent to consumers who made enquiries to Family Planning NSW Talkline phone and email service requesting information related to unintended pregnancy and/or abortion and consented to participate in the survey.
- The online survey was conducted from Oct. 2018 to May 2019

Results

Demographic data – Overview (N=33)

	Total responses
Born overseas	38% (n=10)
Working full time or part time	81% (n=21)
31-40 years old	52% (n=17)
18-30 years old	42% (n=18)
People with a disability	4% (n=1)
Heterosexual	76% (n=19)
Bisexual	16% (n=4)
Asexual	8% (n=2)
Gender non-binary	1 (4%)

Respondents outlined that other than Talkline that they would contact a combination of the following:

- GP 70%
- Online: Google or website 70%
- Other health professional 21%

Consumers identified that they needed more information about:

- the type of abortion procedures available (including procedure method, side effects, risks and legality)
- cost
- where they could access an abortion and if services were available their local area.

What factors influence individuals choice of abortion service provider?

Location



Cost



Range of services



Perceived safety



Opening hours



Reputation



Other



 Currently seeking abortion service
 Previous experience accessing abortion

Conclusion

- Other than Talkline, GP and Online sources were the most common places to seek information about abortion
- Consumers want reliable and accessible information about abortion services
- Cost, location and availability of a range of services were identified as crucial factors by consumers seeking an abortion

References

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 - iii. Newman L, Morrell S, Munot S, Estoesta J, Brassil A. (2011). Reproductive and Sexual Health in New South Wales and Australia. Differentials, Trends and Assessment of Data Sources.
 - iv. Doran, F., & Hornibrook, J. (2014). Rural New South Wales women's access to abortion services: Highlights from an exploratory qualitative study. Australian Journal of Rural Health, 22(3), 121-126.
- * Estimated figures based on current information provided by FPNSW Talkline as of May 2019
Costs for MToPs provided by a ToPs service