



16 August 2023

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The Honourable Amber-Jade Sanderson  
5th Floor, Dumas House  
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By email: [Minister.sanderson@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Minister.sanderson@dpc.wa.gov.au)

Dear Minister Sanderson

### **Abortion Legislation Reform Bill 2023**

Thank you for meeting with Dr Celine Baber (AMA (WA) Council Anaesthetics Representative), David Copland and myself to discuss concerns regarding the Abortion Legislation Reform Bill 2023.

I would like to reiterate our support for reform to ensure accessible and safe provision of abortion healthcare in Western Australia, and that our opinion regarding the Bill is based on reciprocal consultative deliberation with a range of medical professionals, including DiTs and specialists.

The AMA (WA) continues to have concerns about a number of clauses in the Bill, that we believe fail to adequately safeguard Western Australian patients seeking abortion healthcare services.

In particular:

- we believe that at least one of the medical practitioners referred to in Clause 202ME(1)(b) should be a specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist.
- there is no sound clinical justification for permitting the medical practitioner with whom the primary practitioner consults for the purposes of Clause 202ME (1)(b), to have a principal place of practice outside Western Australia.

We believe that addressing these concerns and those outlined in the attached position statement, would improve safety without reducing access to abortion.

I have outlined our concerns to current Members of the Legislative Assembly and Members of the Legislative Council, providing them with the attached position statement.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any aspect of the AMA (WA)'s position or concerns further, and the AMA (WA) would welcome the opportunity to provide advice on any aspect of the Bill, with a view to supporting legislation that enables equitable and safe access to healthcare in WA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Page', written over a light blue background.

Dr Michael Page  
MBBS(Hons) FRCPA  
**President**