

There are legislative variations between states of which GPs much be aware when offering or referring for medical or surgical termination. Below is a summary for each state. More detail can be found at www.childrenbychoice.org.au/factsandfigures/australianabortionlawandpractice

Northern Territory

Patient conditions: None
 Practitioner conditions: None
 Other conditions: None
 Legal gestation limits: 14 weeks (≤ 97 days). Between 14 weeks (>97 days) and 23 weeks (<161 days) if two medical practitioners have assessed the patient and consider termination appropriate.

Western Australia

Patient conditions: None
 Practitioner conditions: A medical practitioner, other than the one performing the termination, must provide or offer counselling to the patient prior to and following the termination.
 Other conditions: None
 Legal gestation limits: 20 weeks (≤ 139 days).

Tasmania and Victoria

Patient conditions: None
 Practitioner conditions: None
 Other conditions: None
 Legal gestation limits: None



Queensland

Patient conditions: None
 Practitioner conditions: None up to 22 weeks, >22 weeks requires consultation with a second practitioner.
 Other conditions: None
 Legal gestation limits: None

New South Wales

Patient conditions: None
 Practitioner conditions: None up to 22 weeks, >22 weeks requires consultation with a second practitioner.
 Other conditions: None
 Legal gestation limits: None

South Australia

Patient conditions: The patient's physical and/or mental health is endangered by pregnancy, or there is a risk of serious fetal abnormality.
 Practitioner conditions: Two medical practitioners agree and sign a certificate that supports the patient's condition.
 Other conditions: Must be performed at a hospital prescribed by the regulations.
 Legal gestation limits: 22 weeks (≤ 153 days).

Australian Capital Territory

Patient conditions: None
 Practitioner conditions: None
 Other conditions (for surgical abortions only): Must be carried out in an approved medical facility or part of a medical facility.
 Legal gestation limits: None



Figure 1. Legal considerations for general practitioners providing termination of pregnancy services