



# ABORTION

## What does New Zealand *really* think?

Last month, Curia Market Research polled 1,013 New Zealanders on the issue of abortion. In the most significant finding, the polling showed that only 9% believe abortions should be allowed up to the current legal limit of 20 weeks, and just 4% believe it should be later than 20 weeks

(including up to birth) as proposed by pro-abortion group ALRANZ. The vast majority of the population also shows strong support for the current legal framework. They want the presence of safeguards around issues such as coercion, standards for providers, and informed consent.

**90%** oppose sex-selective abortions

90% oppose sex-selective abortions (only 4% support). Women are 94% opposed.

**65%** want less abortions

65% agree that society should work together to reduce the number of abortions (only 17% disagree). Of those who generally support abortion, 63% agree with reducing the number of abortions. 74% of women agree (56% of men).

**64%** want women to be fully informed\*

In an earlier poll, 64% said that women considering an abortion have the right to be fully informed of the medical risks of abortion – and the alternatives.

(\*Polling by Curia Market Research in 2011)

**52%** support abortion **48%** oppose / unsure

52% say they generally support abortion and 29% oppose (19% unsure). However, opposition to abortion exceeds support in areas of high deprivation (39% to 35%).

**56%** of women want shorter time limits under the Crimes Act

Only 9% believe it should be the current legal limit of 20 weeks, and just 4% believe it should be later than 20 weeks (including up to birth). Significantly, 56% of women think the time limit should be shorter than the current 20 weeks. And incredibly, a majority (53%) of those who generally support abortion think the time limit should be shorter than the current 20 weeks - 29% of that group think 10 weeks or less.

**79%** want parents to be notified\*

79% think parents should be notified if their daughter aged under 16 is seeking an abortion. And a poll of 600 teenagers (15-21) nationwide found 59% of teenagers thought the parents should be told. 34% were opposed.

(\*Polling by Curia Market Research in 2010/2011)

**49%** support lifestyle abortions

49% support being able to have an abortion just because a woman doesn't want to be a mother (38% oppose, 13% unsure). However, respondents in high areas of deprivation are evenly split on the issue.

**86%** support the current legal standards for providers & premises

86% support the current legal requirements for providers and premises having to be licensed (only 8% disagree). Of those who generally support abortion, 92% support these legal requirements. 95% of women agree (78% of men).

**76%** want safeguards against coercion

76% support a proposal that doctors be required to verify a woman seeking an abortion is not under pressure from a 3rd party (8% opposed). Women are 83% in support (men 69%). Of those who generally support abortion, 84% support this legal requirement.

**46%** believe abortions risk harm to mental health\*

46% agree with the statement "Women who have abortions risk harming their mental health as a result of the abortion" (21% are unsure, and 33% disagree). Significantly, strongest agreement with the statement came from the younger 18-40 age bracket (50%).

(\*Polling by Curia Market Research in 2016)