

Abortion pill 'would benefit rural women'

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Family Planning Queensland says it would like to see women in the state's regional and remote areas have access to the medical abortion drug RU 486.

The drug can be prescribed to women who are less than nine weeks pregnant.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has given the healthcare group Marie Stopes International access to the drug at its Australian clinics.

Two of the clinics are in south-east Queensland.

Family Planning spokeswoman Margot Kingston says it is important that women have choices.

"Several countries, the UK, New Zealand have had it available now for many years and it is regarded as best practice in terms of providing a medical abortion," she said.

"If it was more widely available it would have some great deal of benefit for women in more regional and rural settings as well."

Ms Kingston says the Queensland clinics have resolved some legal complications to use the drug.

"I'm sure Marie Stopes have explored this to the best of their ability in what the implications are in Queensland," she said.

"But there's no doubt the ambiguity about the law perhaps is causing some concern, but Marie Stopes must have resolved that to their mind."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/10/2651427.htm>