



Unplanned pregnancy

Clearinghouse Connector – June 2017

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Introduction

This Connector focuses on the experience of unplanned pregnancy in Australia and the resources available for women and health professionals to help navigate the decision-making process. For information on related topic areas such as abortion, medical abortion, long acting reversible contraception, please see previous Connectors, which can be found [here](#).

Although there is surprisingly little information available about the prevalence of unintended pregnancy in Australia,¹ it has been estimated that half of all pregnancies per year in Australia are unplanned.² Outcomes for unplanned pregnancies include parenting, miscarriage, abortion and adoption, with parenting being the most likely outcome and adoption the least likely.³

Factors influencing women's decisions about whether or not to continue a pregnancy include the level of support they are likely to receive, the financial resources they have access to, and their own emotional readiness to become parents. Regardless of whether a woman decides to continue or terminate her pregnancy she will need access to appropriate, sensitive and non-judgmental supports and services.

WHV thanks the following expert reviewers for their input:

- **Trish Hayes** – Marie Stopes International Australia
 - **Kate Marsh** – Children by Choice
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Overview

[Unplanned pregnancy in Australia](#) Children by Choice, 2016

Incidence

[Prevalence and distribution of unintended pregnancy : the Understanding Fertility Management in Australia National Survey](#) Australian Journal of Public Health, 2016

[Unplanned pregnancy and abortion : what it means legally and socially](#) Royal Women's Hospital, 2011

Current policy context

[Women's sexual and reproductive health : key priorities 2017–2020](#) Victoria. Department of Health and Human Services, 2017

[Don't blame and shame women for unintended pregnancies](#) The Conversation, 2015

[Unplanned pregnancy and emergency contraception in Australia : unsolved dilemmas](#) Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 2014

[Policy solutions for preventing unplanned pregnancy](#) Brookings Institution, 2012 [U.S.]

Women's experiences of unplanned pregnancy

[Understanding women's experiences of unplanned pregnancy and abortion : final report](#) Key Centre For Women's Health In Society, 2009

[Stories from women : unplanned pregnancies](#) Royal Women's Hospital, 2011

[What women want : when faced with an unplanned pregnancy : key findings](#) Marie Stopes International, 2006

Decision making tools for women

[Making a decision](#) Children by Choice, 2016

[For women : decision making as a couple](#) Children by Choice, 2016

[For men : decision making as a couple](#) Children by Choice, 2016

[Activities to help you : assessing your feelings and values](#) Royal Women's Hospital, 2011

[Pregnancy options counselling](#) Royal Women's Hospital, 2011

[About adoption or alternative care](#) Royal Women's Hospital, 2011

[Unplanned pregnancy and relationships](#) Royal Women's Hospital, 2011

[Unplanned pregnancies in violent or abusive relationships](#) Royal Women's Hospital, 2011

[Pregnancy as a result of sexual assault](#) Royal Women's Hospital, 2011

[Unintended pregnancy : continuing a pregnancy](#) Family Planning NSW, 2015

Resources for health professionals

[For professionals : supporting pregnant women](#) Children by Choice, 2016

[Unplanned pregnancy](#) Family Planning Victoria, 2016

[Decision-making concerning unwanted pregnancy in general practice](#) Family Practice, 2014

[Overview of unplanned pregnancy and abortion services in Victoria \[Presentation\]](#) University of Melbourne. Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health (CERSH), 2014

[Contraceptive use at the time of unintended pregnancy : findings from the Contraceptive Use, Pregnancy Intention and Decisions study](#) Australian Family Physician, 2016

Related websites

[Family Planning Victoria](#)

[The Royal Women's Hospital](#) Unplanned pregnancy information

[The Royal Women's Hospital](#) Activities and information for decision-making

[Children by Choice](#)

Footnotes

1. Lucke J, Herbert D, Loxton D, et al. (2011). [Unintended pregnancies : reducing rates by improving access to contraception](#). Australian Family Physician. 40(11): 849-849. Accessed on 26/05/2017. ↩
 2. Children By Choice (2016). [Unplanned pregnancy in Australia](#). Children by Choice. Accessed on 26/05/2017. ↩
 3. WebSurvey (2006). [What women want : when faced with an unexpected pregnancy : key findings](#). Marie Stopes International. Melbourne. Accessed on 26/05/2017. ↩
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How our Clearinghouse can help you

Women's Health Victoria's Clearinghouse has a wealth of information on gender in health in various forms. Our experienced health and information professionals can assist you to access this information.

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