

MEDIA RELEASE

29 NOVEMBER 2024

**WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES EXPRESS IMMENSE CONCERN OVER PETITION TO
ERODE WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Specialist Women's Legal Services in the Top End, Big Rivers and Central Australia & Barkly Regions express immense concern over the tabling of a petition in the Parliament of the Northern Territory yesterday evening to revoke amendments to 2021 legislation that gave Territory women access to abortion options equal to women across the country.

The *Termination of Pregnancy Law Reform Act 2017* (NT) was further reformed in 2021 to align the Northern Territory to national professional standards and legislation in other jurisdictions enabling reasonable, safe and equitable access to termination of pregnancy.

The legislation provides security of choice and options to Territory women in a jurisdiction where women's rights continue to be eroded by gender-based violence.

We urge the Public Account Committee to not refer the petition to the Assembly for debate and send a strong message to Territory women that they deserve equitable access to reproductive rights, irrespective of their home address.

- ENDS -

For media enquiries please contact:

Caitlin Weatherby-Fell, Chief Executive Officer and Principal Lawyer, Top End Women's Legal Service Inc

Ph – (08) 8982 3000

Email – cweatherbyfell@tewls.org.au

Siobhan Mackay, Chief Executive Officer, Katherine Women's Information and Legal Service Inc.

Ph – (08) 8972 1712

Email – siobhan.mackay@kwils.com.au