

~~Mr PEARCE: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Commonwealth Games. Will the minister update the House on any success by transport inspectors in relation to illegal taxi services?~~

~~Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Mirani for his question. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring Queenslanders have safe, reliable and affordable personalised transport services. We want a sustainable and competitive industry that delivers these services. As members know, in the last sitting week new legislation was passed to boost compliance measures and enhance the power of inspectors.~~

~~Since the changes came into effect on 27 April, transport inspectors and law enforcement officers undertook 78 hours of enforcement activity over the last long weekend. A total of 60 penalty infringement notices were issued with combined fines of \$127,926. Fines were issued to 51 drivers with three drivers intercepted on more than one occasion. Fifty four fines in the amount of \$2,356 were issued for providing a taxi service using a motor vehicle that is not a taxi.~~

~~While the Queensland government welcomes innovation in transport, passenger safety will always remain our No. 1 priority and our transport inspectors must have the appropriate tools to ensure they can uphold current and any future regulations. These changes improved our capacity to ensure the time and resources dedicated to upholding transport laws in our state are not wasted. This is vitally important for those consumers who want to have safe, reliable and affordable personalised transport services. We are getting on with delivery, which is why the Premier decided last week to bring forward the review being conducted by Mr Jim Varghese. We are getting on with the decisions that are needed to deliver for the state while, as evidenced in the debate last sitting week, the rabble of the opposition almost derailed the good intent of the legislation by outlawing bus drivers, limousines and Comcare services. The now shadow treasurer let that one through and we had a whole lot of challenges that we had to fix up later. I appreciate the efforts of those opposite to fix up that disarray and dysfunction.~~

~~What have we seen this question time? We have seen the Leader of the Opposition running the same tired question time strategy that was left behind by the member for Southern Downs. He must have sat down at the desk, opened up the drawer and thought, 'There it is, I will pick it up and go again.' We have seen the Deputy Leader of the Opposition unable to ask a question. We have seen the same old Liberal National Party attacks, particularly on working people.~~

~~They are the same old personal attacks as well. This is not what I thought we would have when we started again, when we had the restart and started again with the new Leader of the Opposition. I thought we would be down the track of talking about important policies for the future of Queensland. However, here we are; it is the same old divided Liberal Party and National Party.~~


~~(Time expired)~~

~~Mr SPEAKER: Question time has now concluded. Before I proceed to the next item on the Notice Paper, I am pleased to report that we have another group of students from St Dymphna's Primary School in the electorate of Nudgee in the public gallery observing our proceedings.~~

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## ABORTION LAW REFORM (WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Mr PYNE** (Cairns—Ind) (11.30 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code to reform the law relating to abortion and to make a consequential amendment to the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016.

*Tabled paper:* Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes.

This bill removes sections 224, 225 and 226 from the Criminal Code. These provisions are archaic, outdated and have no place in a modern, liberal democracy. They state that any person who carries out, or assists with, an abortion may be liable for criminal prosecution, including the woman herself. Importantly, the bill does not repeal section 282 or section 313 of the Criminal Code.

Currently, should charges be brought under sections 224, 225 or 226 any defence must hinge on the interpretation of the 'surgical operations and medical treatment' defence in section 282 of the code. In the 1986 case of the Crown versus Bayliss, which interprets section 282, Justice McGuire found that in exceptional cases an abortion would not be unlawful where it was carried out in good faith

to avoid serious danger to the mother's life or her physical or mental health. Removing sections 224, 225 and 226 will remove the necessity to rely on these section 282 components (a) establishing an exceptional case; and (b) serious danger to the mother's life or her physical or mental health. Should this bill pass, the decision for the doctor would simply need to be that continuing the pregnancy poses a bigger risk to the woman than terminating it.

The bill does not amend or repeal section 313, Killing an unborn child, which makes it a crime to prevent a child being born alive by any act or omission of such a nature that if the child had been born alive and had then died, the person would have been deemed to have then unlawfully killed the child. This covers assaults on pregnant females with a child and has a maximum penalty of imprisonment for life. This rightly should remain in the Criminal Code.

The current law in Queensland is causing great hardship and personal suffering. Children by Choice Manager Amanda Bradley told the *Brisbane Times*—

"We get reports of self-abortion, some women we speak to say if I can't get an abortion I will do it myself.

Children by Choice received 118 contacts relating to self-abortion or threats of self-abortion in the past year. This bill will not only help those women but doctors like Dr Caroline de Costa. Dr de Costa told the *Cairns Post* that Queensland doctors continue to provide abortions despite risking prosecution under ambiguous laws. She said—

"It's done knowing that there is case law to protect you, if you are charged—but also knowing that it's unlawful."

...

"This is the only health procedure that is dealt with like this in criminal legalisation ...

"It's way, way out of date and belongs in the 19th century. We're practising medicine in the 21st century."

This bill will protect vulnerable Queensland women and the doctors who are risking prosecution to assist them. The ridiculous nature of the current situation was on public display in 2009-10 when a Cairns couple were charged under the Queensland legislation. Although they were acquitted after jury trial, they were subjected to 18 months of glaring negative publicity. A Cairns District Court jury took less than an hour to find Tegan Simone Leach, 21, and her partner, Sergie Brennan, not guilty of charges of procuring an abortion and supplying drugs to procure an abortion following a three-day trial. The couple were charged after police found an empty blister packet of the drug RU486 and misoprostol during a search of their home on an unrelated matter in February that year. They admitted in police interviews that Ms Leach took the pills imported by Mr Brennan's family in the Ukraine because they were not ready to have a child. It is my position that when a young woman is not ready to have a child and chooses to terminate a pregnancy that should be a matter for her and her medical practitioner, not a matter for the state.

Removing these sections from the Criminal Code would mean that abortion is no longer a crime in Queensland. Of course, many people are now raising the matter of late-term abortions. I have not drafted any clause or made any suggestion in relation to gestation periods, whether it be 24 weeks, 20 weeks or whatever, because my main concern is that this parliament get together and pass law reform in this area. We need something that a majority of MPs in this place can support. It is my hope that, during the committee process with submissions from medical professionals and with MPs operating in goodwill, we can reach a point at which all or certainly the majority of members in this place can support this so that young women or any women, especially vulnerable women, are not risking criminal prosecutions. Surely a young person should not have to ruin their young lives by proceeding with a pregnancy if they are not ready and their family and their doctor think it inadvisable.

When nearly a third of women will seek an abortion over their lifetime, it is about time our laws reflected modern values that trust and empower women to make decisions about their own bodies. I commend this bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Mr PYNE** (Cairns—Ind) (11.37 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

## Referral to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

### ~~MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST~~

#### ~~Liberal National Party~~



~~**Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.38 am): I first want to take this opportunity to thank my LNP colleagues for the trust they have placed in me in electing me to the position of Leader of the Opposition here in Queensland. As I travel around this great state and stop to talk to people, whether it is on the street, in the coffee shops or at the local school, they ask me what is happening in Queensland. They are concerned Queensland is grinding to a halt and they are concerned that that is a direct result of a government which was elected with no plan for growing the economy or delivering the jobs that Queenslanders need. Thousands of Queenslanders used to go to work every day without worrying about what this government would be doing to them but that has clearly changed. Queenslanders are unsure whether their minority government, held up by the Katters and Independents, is going to look after them or their union bosses.~~

014 ~~We have seen again this morning that this government has an open door policy as long as you are a union boss, a factional power broker, a donor or a former staffer turned lobbyist. Queenslanders rightly want to know how the Labor government is transitioning the Queensland economy from the mining boom to a more diversified economy with greater opportunities for all Queenslanders. Queenslanders are being let down, and Labor has no plan to manage the transition of the Queensland economy, grow jobs or invest in the services Queenslanders need and deserve.~~

~~The LNP is determined to get Queensland moving. The LNP shadow cabinet team that I have announced brings the right mix of experience, energy, enthusiasm and new ideas combined with a deep understanding of the issues affecting all Queenslanders from Cape York to Coolangatta and from Brisbane to Bedourie. The LNP understands that a strong economy is the foundation of a more prosperous Queensland. A thriving economy supports the jobs, growth and opportunities that Queenslanders want and deserve. A strong economy will allow the people of our state to fulfil their aspirations rather than being left worried and directionless, as they are by this Labor Party government.~~

~~The economic team that I announced earlier this week comprises myself and my deputy, the member for Nanango, and the shadow Treasurer and minister for small business, the member for Indooroopilly, signifying the importance we place on the small business sector. There are 410,000 small businesses which employ the vast majority of Queenslanders the length and breadth of the state, and we will support small business. We will not create a government owned monolithic corporation to compete with them, as this Labor government choses to do. The shadow minister for employment, industrial relations, skills and training, the member for Kawana, will sharpen the focus of this team to ensure that we bring together those vital portfolios not only to look at what is occurring in the education sector but also to bring together skills training and job opportunities in a clear policy area.~~

~~The shadow natural resources and mines minister, the member for Hinchinbrook, will continue his great role in advocating for the resources sector which is one of the foundations of Queensland's great economy. The shadow transport and main roads minister, the member for Glass House, will bring together his experience of traveling throughout the state, and of course there is the shadow Attorney General, the member for Mansfield. The shadow tourism minister, the member for Beaudesert, will no doubt bring great enthusiasm to his role as he goes around the state visiting a multitude of tourism hotspots, starting off in his own electorate the beautiful Scenic Rim, which is a magnet for tourists the length and breadth of Australia. We have the shadow agriculture minister, the member for Burdekin. Yesterday I said there are some shadow ministers I will have to hold back. I think I will need both hands on the reins and both feet on the brakes to hold back the member for Burdekin with his enthusiasm for the agriculture sector. I expect that we will all be hearing more from the minister for energy, biofuels and water, the member for Burleigh. This strong team will focus on plans and policies to build a more diverse and robust Queensland economy now and for future generations.~~

~~I have already highlighted the importance of small business to the Queensland economy and the hard work of millions of small business owners. As I have indicated, that is why we combined those~~