

I am writing to give my support to the current Termination of Pregnancy Bill.

I am a registered nurse, who in the UK over 20 years ago worked an NHS ward and theatre nursing women who were having both medical and surgical terminations of pregnancy. I therefore have great insight into the reasons why women make this difficult decision and the social determinants regarding this. I also supported women who were having late termination of pregnancies due to fetal abnormalities and again understand the emotional trauma for these ladies.

For the past 10 years in Queensland within my job I have supported and signposted women with unplanned pregnancies to the appropriate services for support. It greatly saddens and angers me that in this day and age, Queensland still cites abortion as illegal due to an ancient UK law, which the UK has many years ago changed.

Whilst women in Queensland can currently access termination of pregnancy, they have to have good health literacy and finances. This law will close the gap for our most vulnerable communities and provide them with the support and access that they require. By decriminalising termination of pregnancy women will be able to access termination easier and therefore quicker, which is better for all.

I sincerely hope that common sense prevails and that this act goes through.

Kind regards

Elena