



# The Right to Life Australia Inc.

By email: [health@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:health@parliament.qld.gov.au)

5 September 2018

Committee Secretary  
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam:

## **Submission re: Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018**

### **“NO to Abortion Victoria Style”**

We confirm our submission of 8 February 2018 opposing abortion at all stages of gestation. The bottom line in this debate is the basic truth that every abortion kills a baby – [a tiny or not-so-tiny human being]. This truth is completely being denied.

The plan to facilitate greater access to abortion services in Queensland with the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 is similar to that which preceded the passage of the Abortion Law Reform Act 2008 in Victoria. The following information supplements our opposition to any deregulation of abortion in Queensland.

#### 1. Sex selection abortion is being practised in Victoria.

Research by La Trobe University in Melbourne has recently been published which uncovers the practice of son preference and sex-selection abortion in Victoria. This has led to discrimination against female babies purely because they are female, leading to a whole phenomenon now known as “missing girls”.

Aisha Dow in her article in The Age 12 August 2018 titled “The missing girls never born in Victoria” stated: “But in findings researchers say indicate “systematic discrimination against females starts in the womb”, mothers within some key migrant communities are recording sons at rates of 122 and 125 for every 100 daughters in later pregnancies.

Lead researcher Dr Kristina Edvardsson from Melbourne’s La Trobe University said it showed gender bias persisted in Victoria, despite laws banning people from choosing the sex of their child, other than for medical reasons.

“We believe that some women may be terminating pregnancies after discovering they are expecting a girl and in other cases are travelling overseas to access non-medical sex selection services through assisted reproduction,” she said. The research was published in the International Journal of Epidemiology.

<https://academic.oup.com/ije/advance-article/doi/10.1093/ije/dyy148/5057663>

Male-biased sex ratios in Australian migrant populations: a population-based study of 1,191, 250 births 1999–2015.

The reality is that making abortion more freely available is an act of discrimination and denial of the most basic of human rights for a class of human beings alive in the mothers’ wombs,



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decreed unwanted while their “wanted” brothers and sisters receive the best of antenatal care”.

## 2. Babies are aborted for “suspected” but not confirmed abnormalities

# Data extracted from Victorian Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Morbidity and Mortality Reports 2007-2016 show that babies are now being aborted for suspected but not confirmed abnormalities.

## 3. Babies are being aborted for psychosocial reasons, at “due date”.

In 2011 a baby was aborted in Victoria at 37+ weeks for psycho-social reasons.

## 4. Babies born alive after abortions:

In Victoria (2007 to 2016) there are between 33 and 54 babies born alive every year after failed abortions. They are recorded as perinatal deaths or neonatal deaths (die within 28 days of birth).

## 5. Trauma on hospital staff:

In Victoria, a journalist - Barney Zwartz in 2010 reported that babies are born alive and left to die. As he said in his article “What has been the effect on staff morale at the Royal Women’s Hospital?” What has been the effect on staff recruitment? Barney Zwartz also said in one case - not at the Royal Women’s (Melbourne) - a trainee was deeply traumatised when she was told to drop a living foetus in a bucket of formaldehyde.

## 5. “Selective reduction” abortion:

The pitting of a healthy unborn twin against the life of the “unhealthy” twin, is shown by an example in a leading Melbourne Hospital in 2010. IVF 32 week gestation twins were both aborted -one twin had a heart defect and was marked for abortion but they killed the healthy twin by mistake – so the other twin was aborted, as per the plan.

The Queensland Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 will enable a medical practitioner to perform an abortion on a woman more than 22 weeks pregnant to save the woman’s life or the life of an another unborn child. Is this merely the deregulation of sex selection, or disability selection, or any other reason for multiple birth pregnancies? This case shows that when abortion is decriminalised there are no boundaries to the extent of its practice.

As experience shows us – the more available abortion becomes, the more will want to access it.

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