



RACP
Specialists. Together
EDUCATE ADVOCATE INNOVATE

From the President

31 August 2018

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

Via Email: health@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Re: Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) thanks the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee (the Committee) for the opportunity to provide input into the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 (the Bill).

The relatively short timeframe for this consultation precludes the RACP's ability to undertake the appropriate internal consultation and develop a more detailed response. Instead, we have enclosed for the Committee's consideration, our previous submission to the Review of termination of pregnancy laws in Queensland and the RACP position statement titled *Sexual and Reproductive Health Care for Young People*, which outline our position with respect to termination of pregnancy.

In essence, the RACP supports uniform access to safe, legal, accessible and affordable abortion services with both medical and surgical options for women who do not choose to continue their pregnancy. This translates to our support for moves to reform the law to decriminalise and regulate abortion in Queensland, particularly the removal of Sections 224, 225 and 226 from the Criminal Code. However, we note that some medical practitioners are opposed to this on conscientious grounds.

The Bill is of high importance to our Fellows who perform surgical or medical terminations, particularly in the case of late pregnancy. The current state abortion law is unclear and confusing, putting medical practitioners at risk of seven to 14 years imprisonment for procuring an abortion. The RACP emphasises that such matters of high public and professional importance require meaningful consultation and adequate time for developing a response, rather than simply ticking the box.

The RACP would welcome the opportunity to provide more detailed feedback to the Committee at the public hearing. Should you require any further information regarding this response, please contact Bella Wang, Policy Officer at [REDACTED] or on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Lane', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Associate Professor Mark Lane

Enc: RACP submission to the review of termination of pregnancy laws in Queensland
RACP Position Statement: Sexual and Reproductive Health Care for Young People
(2015)