

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Deepest possible concern over proposed abortion law changes  
**Date:** Monday, 3 September 2018 1:31:01 PM

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Dear Committee Secretary Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to make a formal submission on the proposed Abortion law changes. I am writing to express my deepest possible concern over the abortion laws changes.

I have already emailed my local member, Hon Mark Furner and the QLD Premier about my deepest possible concern with the proposed abortion law changes introduced in State Parliament.

From a personal perspective, as a recent Dad in the last two years, I have been deeply reflecting on the value of human life including the yet to be born. I am writing this formal submission on their behalf and ask that you sincerely consider their rights in this 'debate'. I can't fathom how it is justifiable with this proposed legislation to abort up to birth due to 'reasons'. Given that advances in medical science enable a baby to survive outside of a mother's womb after 24 weeks, the reasoning that 'it is my body and I have the right to do what I want' and 'that I have reasons' does not hold merit. I believe that the 'rights' reasoning should extend to those yet born given they have rights too as persons who can survive independently from a mother after 24 weeks.

In addition, I wish to raise serious concerns over the scope and credibility of the QLRC report which this Committee will be considering when it comes to making a recommendation to Parliament.

Firstly, the report clearly states (page 250 point 67) that "The approach taken to the CRC was to leave the question of rights before birth unaddressed, giving individual countries the flexibility to adopt their own position." I believe this is completely inadequate and does not reflect the community sentiment that unborn babies have rights too as seen in a recent Galaxy Poll conducted between Friday, May 6 and Sunday, May 8, 2016, where 66% of voters in Queensland believed that an unborn child at 20 weeks of pregnancy is a human person with human rights and 85% of Queenslanders are opposed to abortion after 20 weeks." This credible community sentiment has been excluded from the QLRC report (pp44-46) where it is argued that there is a 'general community attitude of rising support for a women's access to abortion'.

Secondly, the QLRC report also recognises the problem of sex/gender based selection for abortion (p236 point 19ff) and disability based abortion (p253ff), and say this is an issue for women. Again this is grossly inadequate as it fails to consider this as an

'issue' for the very babies aborted due an 'unwanted' gender or disability. It is my understanding, where similar laws have been passed in other states such as South Australia that there has been an increase in abortions on the grounds of disability, particularly Down Syndrome. [REDACTED]

Thirdly, for this Health Committee to make a recommendation to endorse this legislation on the basis of the QLRC report that is clearly inadequate is cause for great concern.

I am recommending that this Parliamentary Committee reject the proposed abortion law changes due to the inadequate QLRC report which fails to consider any rights of the unborn and needs to serious consider the credible community sentiment which supports to rights on the unborn in any proposed abortion laws.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Farrell

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