



Attention:
Health Committee,
Parliament House,
George Street,
Brisbane Q 4000

Submission regarding **Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018**

As citizens of Queensland we wish to submit details of our position regarding this Bill proposed for the determination of the Queensland Parliament.

Every Life is Precious - this Bill proposes a murderous intent on the most vulnerable humans of all, and babies certainly deserve much better. We are standing up for the rights of unborn children who have no voice. Surely the proposed Bill supports the ultimate act of Child Abuse.

Abortion on Demand up to 22 weeks - and to birth, if supported by two doctors.

This is surely gravely and morally wrong to take the life of an innocent, healthy child and for the Law to allow this to happen. The baby in the womb of a pregnant woman is most helpless and defenceless, and a unique human being with its own DNA from conception. To decide to abort a baby for social reasons or any other apart from an actual threat to the mother's life, is unjust and immoral.

The Legislation provides no safeguards against Sex Selective abortions - the ultimate anti-women act. And also provides no safeguards for women considering an abortion, such as Independent Counselling, Informed Consent Conditions or a Cooling Off Period - which would form at least a protection against coercion to have an abortion, plus giving women information about what is involved in the procedure and the actual risks, physical and psychological.

From a human rights perspective this proposed Bill cuts down freedom of conscience protections for Doctors (and other medical staff). The motto of Doctors is DO NO HARM. The Hippocratic Oath of ethical, professional behaviour, formerly taken by newly qualified doctors, did not support abortion. Being forced to refer a woman to another doctor who performs abortions would be a conflict of epic proportions to many doctors, as already detailed by medical associations.

According to previous polls and surveys over years, and the most YouGov Galaxy Poll August 2018, a large percentage (62%) of Queenslanders believe an unborn baby at 23 weeks is a person with rights. The detailed information gained from the most recent Poll show that respondents have given considerable thought to what is involved in the attempts of Government regarding the changes to the Criminal Code regarding abortion in Queensland. No woman has been convicted for having an abortion despite 14,000 abortions being performed in this state each year. With an abortion a life is destroyed and a woman is harmed.

The facts of abortion must be disclosed to women so they can have informed consent. There is evidence that up to 1 in 5 women suffer prolonged psychological trauma after abortion, in particular depression, anxiety and other forms of mental illness. Post abortive women are 6 times more likely to commit suicide than women who give birth. This Bill is ANTI Women as it is allowing abortion on demand with no disclosure of the risks such as this.

WOMEN DESERVE BETTER THAN ABORTION

The only changes to the Law that should be considered are safeguards for women so they can make an informed decision:

- Free independent counselling, and to receive information on
 - The unborn baby's development
 - The nature of the abortion procedure
 - The risks associated i.e. physical and psychological
 - Alternatives such as keeping the baby or adoption
 - Support services
 - A Cooling Off period of several days.
- A much needed policy change for significant expansion of Government funding, including pregnancy counselling services which offer a real choice and real support for women. This must also include Post Abortion Counselling.

There is so much more to say and do, but our society must be one of compassion, support, and encouragement of the whole person to be the best they can be. We need to give our potential newest citizens the gift of life in a free and caring society.

Michael and Catherine McGrath