



Subject:

Post Abortion Trauma

Date:

Tuesday, 4 September 2018 9:58:43 AM

In consideration of the proposed Abortion Bill I am not sure that you fully understand the enormous problem of post-abortion trauma and its wide reaching effects in the community. I offer you one of my experiences for your consideration.

On one particular day while undertaking a Clinical Pastoral Education course with LifeLine, I took a phone call from a woman who had two children and was pregnant with a third. Some friends told her that a third child would become a burden and upset the future that she and her husband had planned. This woman and her husband went to a 'Family Planning Clinic' to seek advice and were advised that an abortion would be appropriate and so they had an abortion.

When I took this woman's call early in the morning she was hysterical, almost incoherent, filled with an inconsolable grief and a horror of what she had done in terminating her baby's life. For me it was a deeply disturbing moment and it was obvious that there was nothing, and I mean nothing, that I could do to console her or offer her any hope.

This was just the beginning of a most disturbing and soul shattering day. This distraught woman rang 5 times during the day and on each occasion she seemed to be more disturbed, hysterical, incoherent, pleading for someone to take away her unbearable suffering, her grief, her immense guilt at what she had done. Fearing for her life I sought counsel and help from my supervisor, who recognised this woman who was already under counselling from a full time counsellor who he immediately sent to visit her to determine how she could be helped. Every time I recall the incident, I pray for her and her family. This really is 'a woman's health issue' that should never have occurred and I pray the Queensland Government will have a rethink and become better informed before going ahead with this ill conceived plan that will bring so much pain and suffering to ill advised women.

People involved in 'Family Planning Clinics' are so helpful in advising women clients that abortion is the best solution for their problem. The facts are that most women who undergo abortion procedures are left with ongoing grief that no one really cares about and often leads to horrendous consequences.

The resulting consequences for the woman I have written about above have left behind a trail of hurt, confusion and destruction. In this just one abortion event there has been left in its wake a now totally dysfunctional family.

- **A husband who has lost his loving wife to a traumatic grief that he is helpless to deal with.**
- **Two children who cannot understand the enormous and confusing change in their mother who has in one sense been taken away.**
- **Immediate family and friends who witness their loved one turned into a totally dysfunctional and irrational woman.**

The question for your Committee is "WHAT IS THE REAL COST OF ABORTION ON OUR SOCIETY AND IS THERE ANY BODY OR ANY PLACE THAT THESE ILL-INFORMED WOMEN CAN TURN TO FOR HELP IN THEIR DESPERATION".

Please give this matter your serious consideration.

Peter Kindness

