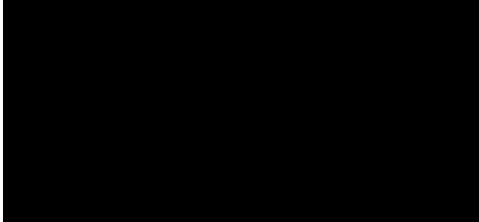


Mrs Gail D Allen



This submission to the Queensland Parliament addresses the *Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee*, as it deals with the *Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018*, also known as *Jackie Trad's Abortion Bill*.

As I viewed debate on this Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 according to Senators O'Sullivan, Bernadi, Stoker and Rice amongst others, I had to agree that it is clearly 'murder of a child', 'grotesque and horrible,' and a sad and terrible reflection on our humanity. Senator O'Sullivan has described in graphic detail how 'a healthy child just seconds from birth' may be killed. Doctors will be forced to participate in this 'horrific' process. The idea that it allows a woman to do what she wants with her body I concur is indeed a 'trite' response. The idea that a mother can be legally allowed to 'kill a healthy, viable child because it happens to be a girl or a boy when the other sex would have been preferred' I also believe to be unacceptable and 'barbaric'.

This Bill does not protect babies who may survive an abortion and removes people's right to conscientiously object to participation in murder of a child. Current case law provides that a termination is lawful where necessary to prevent serious danger to a woman's life, physical or mental health and is not out of proportion to danger intended to be averted. Apparently, this has created uncertainty among some doctors. Since we are dealing with human life there are no certainties; people and circumstances are complex, and no one can accurately predict the future and surely this bill will only conjure up more terrible circumstances and more complex issues.

As a woman who once fell pregnant with a Dalcon Shield implanted to prevent pregnancy and then miscarried at 20 weeks I can speak from experience. Many years later, I still grieve for this 'unwanted' baby who strangled on the cord because all nursing staff were attending other patients in the middle of the night that my baby was born. Perhaps they thought I would welcome her death and it was better for a 20-week unplanned fetus to die, but people are complex and do not always react according to how others anticipate they should.

One claim for the introduction of this bill is that current laws on abortion were enacted more than a hundred years ago and newer and safer medical procedures are now available. These procedures do not make murder something else because it is a hundred years later. It is still the killing of a 'healthy viable child', no matter how 'safe' for the mother. Debating the issues that

may stem from the abortion in later years, for the mother, could take up several pages alone. Regret and guilt may replace earlier feelings later in life and lead to tragic consequences. We are human. We are complex. We are constantly learning and changing.

Apparently, we should decriminalise abortion, while extending its scope to include death up to and including at the moment of birth and death because of gender. Section 313(1) should thus be amended so that killing an unborn child is no longer a criminal act. This is abhorrent to me and to many other people, as has been stated by those opposing the bill in parliament. Where does the idea come from that the majority of Australian women support these 'modern' ideas on abortion? Have we held a referendum? Have we given all Australian women all the real facts? What has so far occurred is that labor has attempted to pass the bill through the parliament without any debate and without most people becoming aware of what has actually been proposed. This in itself demonstrates that there are serious issues with this bill.

As a woman and as an Australian citizen I wish to lodge my opposition to this horrendous bill.

Sincerely,  
Gail D Allen