

**Subject:**

Submission re Jackie Trad abortion bill

**Date:**

Monday, 3 September 2018 8:31:55 PM

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing about the Jackie Trad abortion bill, but particularly about the QLRC review, which I was referred to by MP Yvette D'ath in her response to my email to her on the bill. She indicated that Labor were progressing with the bill on the basis of the recommendations of the review. I have copied a lot of what I said to her into this submission. I hope someone is listening!

Several things stood out to me in the QLRC review.

Firstly, the use of the wording is strongly biased. For example, the phrase "termination of a woman's pregnancy" appears several times. This seems to be the "modern" view, but the progress that has been made in the last few decades on understanding what is happening in the womb to the unborn child (I will use my own bias!), along with the knowledge we have now of genetics, clearly shows that while the reproduction of a new life does occur within a woman's body, the child is a completely separate life to that of the mother and ought to be acknowledged in that context. The phrase "a woman's pregnancy" however is consistent with the intentional attitude of many to keep at arm's length the knowledge that it is a child that is being aborted, terminated, killed, however you put it it is the end of a life, death. But obviously to speak so plainly is unpalatable to those promoting abortion.

Secondly, you say that this was an independent statutory body, however, the terms of reference deny this: "The Commission's terms of reference take as their starting point that Queensland should amend its laws to remove terminations... and to otherwise modernise and clarify the law in relation to terminations... require the Commission to make recommendations... to achieve those aims". Doesn't sound to me independent at all and indicates that the Commission's recommendations were predetermined.

Thirdly, and tied to the above point, the assumed link between modernising and removing abortion from the criminal act is wrong. Instead of improving our society this proposed change will degrade it by announcing that the most vulnerable among us are the least important. The legal protections put around the unborn in earlier times, times when the science available was much less clear about the physical and emotional responses present in unborn children in the womb from very early gestation periods, and times now considered to be "out of touch" and old fashioned, served as an indication to all that life is important. My understanding is that no woman has ever been convicted for having an abortion. However, its current and continued inclusion in the criminal code stands as a deterrent, a warning, of the consequences that come when life is destroyed. It must be retained.

Please, consider the lives of the unborn children, and the women carrying those unwanted children. So many women who abort their children do so out of fear, coercion and lack of knowledge. Support is what is needed. I have two friends who have had abortions in the past whose lives have been seriously affected by the loss of their baby. One was coerced by an abusive husband, who she later left with her two sons (one born after the abortion, at a more appropriate time for the father). The other aborted her baby due to her age and lack of family support. Nearly 30 years later she still feels deep grief over its loss. There must be so many other stories like this one. I wonder if the review looked into this aspect? One of its underlying principles was that "women's autonomy and health should be promoted".

How does Jackie Trad's abortion bill support women like my two friends?

Please make the right decision. Don't make a decision that you will later regret. Please.

Yours truly

Kirrilly Wasserman

