

**Subject:**

Objection to proposed Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018

Date:

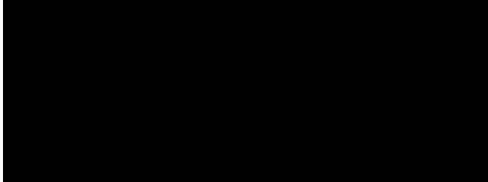
Tuesday, 4 September 2018 11:16:56 AM

TO:

Health Committee,
Parliament House, George St, Brisbane Qld 4000

FROM:

Dr Allen Hibberd,


4th September 2018

Re: Objection to proposed Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018

I object to the proposed Queensland legislation. I do not want it in this State nor this Nation. Its overall thrust is opposed to health and well-being of mother, child and families. It is also contrary to the goals of medical and service personnel and organisations who are tasked with support of mother, child and families. It is a bad proposal.

In my lifetime in this State and Nation, I never before have been confronted with proposed legislation such as this and the defunct Pyne bill proposals of 2016 that have been so completely contrary to the intent of all other legislation: the support of the health, well-being and positive progress of society's security and foundation.

Biologically and ethically, the only difference between a child *postpartum* and in the womb is the life support mechanism. There is little real difference before and after birth in the health requirements of the child and the mother and family. Several proponents of the 2018 legislation claim pregnancy is a health matter for the mother including her social circumstances. That thinking is simply wrong because pregnancy is a matter for mother, child and family and indeed society. The 1899 legislation appears to rightly support these.

A principal proponent of the 2018 Bill often cites the current legislation's age (119 years) as a prime reason for it to be changed. Age has nothing to do with it. The 1899 legislation has lasted because it is reasonable and useful. There is no clear reason for it to be changed. The law must not now abrogate its responsibility to the unborn. The current proposal is neither reasonable nor useful.

In referring to the importance of life in the womb, the current criminal code serves to educate our society about the value and dignity of human life. The 2018 proposal strongly de-humanises life: killing of life in the womb is trivialised. If the life of the unborn can be

so trivialised, the lives of other major sectors of our society can also become trivialised because some are unable to effectively speak for themselves, viz. some of the aged, infirm and severely handicapped; these require society to speak for them. The proposed 2018 legislation undermines this foundation.

The 2018 proposal appears to not effectively take into account the needs of the mother for supportive guidance in arriving at a decision regarding termination of pregnancy. She may well be strongly, severely and negatively influenced/pressured to abort contrary to her own wishes. The 2018 proposal appears to make no allowance for compassionate guidance. In fact, it paves the way for informed consent to be abandoned. It strongly appears to ignore the right of women to understand real risks associated with abortion. Risks are to the unborn child (obviously), the mother's health and well-being (obviously) and to health and well-being of others associated with the mother including to the detriment of society.

While stating that it does not, the proposed Bill does effectively remove the right for conscientious objection on the part of medical personnel. This effectively tries to legislate *how* one must think and act and is therefore bad legislation. It is contrary to sound reasoning and may well contribute to medical personnel leaving the profession. The proposed Bill will certainly trivialise life and lead to more deaths.

I strongly urge all concerned with this contentious, proposed legislation to think again and abandon it completely.

Allen Hibberd