



Subject:
Date:

Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018
Tuesday, 4 September 2018 7:44:11 AM

Amended submission against the above by undersigned

It is the duty of every citizen to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves:

- Labor's extreme bill would allow abortion past 22 weeks gestation until birth, even for social reasons, if two doctors approve, although the second doctor does not even have to see the woman, or look at her file – and there is no penalty if the abortion is performed without a second's doctor approval. This is absolutely abhorrent and disgraceful. It is shocking that government is even considering this. Some babies are viable outside the womb at 22 weeks gestation, even though the recognised point of viability in Australia is 23 weeks. According to a YouGov Galaxy poll in August 2018, only 6% of Queenslanders support abortion after 23 weeks, including just 3% of women, with 76% opposed.
- This extreme bill is anti-women because it allows sex selection abortion. This is a barbaric facet of gender discrimination, in which unborn female babies are killed for the "crime" of being a girl. According to a YouGov Galaxy poll in August 2018, only 8% of Queenslanders support sex-selective abortion, including 5% of women, with 83% opposed.
- Abortion remaining in the Criminal Code does serve as a necessary deterrent to doctors and as a moral compass for all. It instructs society about the grave consequence of an abortion – a life is destroyed and a woman is harmed.
- Labor's Termination of Pregnancy Bill would force doctors with a conscientious objection to refer a woman seeking an abortion to another doctor who will be able to facilitate her request, thus making the referring doctor complicit in the outcome. This is a violation of the right to conscientious objection, and a doctor's obligation to recommend what is the patient's best interests. This is totalitarian.
- Labor's Termination of Pregnancy Bill in forcing doctors with conscientious objection to refer for abortion anyhow is likely to force some doctors to exit the profession and may deter new entrants. This deadly Bill could lead to a shortage in doctors and therefore do irreparable damage to the Queensland public hospitals and regional health services. It's nearsighted, and abortion-agenda focused.
- In removing doctors' rights to full conscientious objection, and compelling them to refer for abortion, this proposed law probably would force some Christian doctors out of medicine and deter people of faith, or with a strong life ethos, from studying medicine. It should be noted that at the 2016 census 62% of the Queensland population identified as being Christian. It could lead to a shortage of supply of good doctors. The problem would probably be exacerbated in rural and regional areas, some of which already have a problem with a shortage of doctors.
- Labor's Termination of Pregnancy Bill would allow abortions to be performed at taxpayer-funded public hospitals and therefore they would be free. The availability of free abortions for any reason at public hospitals would lead to an increase in the abortion rate, with more women being

harmed as a result, and put further stress unnecessarily on an already overcrowded public health system.

- Labor's Termination of Pregnancy Bill does not include safeguards for women seeking an abortion, such as independent counselling, an informed consent requirement and a cooling-off period. Research already shows that abortion and coercion are correlated. The lack of these safeguards in the proposed bill does not help women to make an informed independent decision at such crucial time. In overlooking this, the bill can only be described as anti-woman.
- 62% of Queenslanders agree that the unborn at 23 weeks is a person with rights, according to a YouGov Galaxy poll in August 2018. The law must protect the right to life of unborn babies. It is shameful that Labor wants to ignore the fundamental human rights of the most defenceless members of the human family.
- A YouGov Galaxy poll in August 2018 showed 26% of Queenslanders personally knew at least one woman who was coerced to have an abortion. Abortion coercion is another form of domestic violence. Many abusive partners force women to abort their babies, because they do not want the financial obligations of raising a child and/or they want to keep their women sexually available. This bill will leave vulnerable women unprotected from coercion of the worst kind, further perpetuating the cycle of domestic violence.
- A YouGov Galaxy poll in August 2018 showed that 88% of Queenslanders agree that women seeking an abortion should have free independent counselling before making a decision. This should include information on the development of the unborn child, the nature of the procedure and physical and psychological risks associated with abortion, and the support available should she wish to continue with her pregnancy. A requirement for mandatory independent counselling from a source not connected with the abortion clinic is not in the bill. It is profoundly anti-woman.
- There is clear evidence that up to 1 in 5 women suffer serious prolonged psychological trauma after abortion, such as depression and anxiety. The relief most women experience immediately after an abortion is usually transient (Real Choices Australia [REDACTED]). The facts of abortion must be disclosed to women so they can have real way of informed consent. Labor's bill ignores the right of women to know the real risk factors of abortion.
- Post-abortive women are almost 6 times more likely to commit suicide than women who give birth (British Medical Journal, 1997 [REDACTED]). Labor's bill is anti-woman as it is allowing abortion on demand with no disclosure of risks such as this.

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