

**Subject:**

Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018

Date:

Tuesday, 4 September 2018 1:23:45 PM

I am writing to inform you of my objections to the proposed abortion bill introduced by the Qld Labor Government.

Full decriminalisation of abortion would mean abortion would be legal in Queensland for any reason at all, effectively until the moment of birth. This is unacceptable and places no value on human life pre-birth.

There are serious physical and emotional effects of abortion on women, and as a consequence, on their families. Physical risks include infection, haemorrhage, infertility and breast cancer. Psychological risks include depression and other mental illness, suicide, attempted suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, and general poor self-esteem.

Many women claim that they have the right to determine what happens to their body and should have free choice of abortion. A baby in the womb is not their body it has different DNA, it is not their body.

The proposed bill provides no safeguards for women seeking an abortion, such as informed consent conditions, cooling-off periods and mandatory independent counselling. I wish to point out that any person wishing to commit suicide would be referred to a suitable counselling support service but a woman wishing to terminate her baby apparently does not require any such support. Rather, I believe there is a real need for Government funding to be significantly expanded to include pregnancy counselling services and support for women, including post-abortion counselling.

The proposed bill prohibits any communication against abortion within 150 metres of clinics, which would even criminalise the action of a mother trying to persuade her daughter not to proceed with an abortion, or the action of a boyfriend offering support to his partner to encourage her to continue with the pregnancy.

This Bill permits the killing of a baby up to the moment of birth. How is this different to killing a new born baby? It is an atrocity.

Humanity does not begin at birth, it begins at conception. At conception we begin our humanity and progress through the many stages of human life. It does not matter if you are in the womb or sitting in a car, location does not determine your humanity but this Bill assumes you have no rights until you are born and out of the womb.

Approximately 250 people die on Queensland roads each year, but that is nothing compared to over 10,000 children who die in the womb in Queensland every year. The most dangerous place to be in Queensland and Australia is not on the roads but in a Mother's womb, more lives are lost here than anywhere else. This Bill makes no attempt to reduce this death toll and may just escalate it. Again, there is a real need for Government funding to be significantly expanded to include independent pregnancy counselling services and support for women, including post-abortion counselling.

I reject this irresponsible and ill-conceived abortion bill in its entirety.

Trevor Thomson

