

Subject: Submission on decriminalisation of abortion
Date: Tuesday, 4 September 2018 6:39:02 PM

From Mavis Cottrell

[REDACTED]

Dear Health Committee Members,

SUBMISSION ON *Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018*

Grave Inconsistencies in State Criminal Law

There are dramatic inconsistencies with regard to the treatment of different people in society under state laws. A man can be a convicted criminal with multiple murder charges to his name but he can't be put to death because we don't allow the death penalty for convicts. But on the other hand innocent pre-born babies can be killed when they've done nothing at all to warrant their deaths.

Why is the proposed abortion bill before State Parliament in effect allowing abortions up until birth? A recent case of murder against a man accused of killing a pregnant woman was given two life sentences because the unborn child was also killed.

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BROCK Wall, who admitted to murdering his pregnant girlfriend on the Gold Coast, has been handed two life sentences for killing her and their unborn baby.

Wall bludgeoned his partner Fabiana Palhares, 34, to death with a tomahawk in her Gold Coast home in 2015.

Wall's sentencing in the Queensland Supreme Court followed him pleading guilty to the February 2015 murder of his Brazilian partner in a domestic violence incident at Varsity Lakes. He was sentenced to at least 20 years in jail for the brutal murder.

*Wall was also sentenced for unlawful assault of a pregnant woman, a charge that was laid two days after he was accused of her murder when police discovered Ms Palhares was **10 weeks' pregnant**.*

In the United States of America the President plans to sign into law the *Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, which would prohibit abortions after 20 weeks when babies in the womb can feel the excruciating pain of abortion. Experts told the US Senate that

unborn children have a capacity to **feel pain** much earlier (than 22 weeks). They said that the neural circuitry responsible for the most primitive response to **pain**, the spinal reflex, is in place by **8 weeks** of development. This is the earliest point at which the **foetus** experiences **pain** in any capacity.

Where is the consistency in our state laws? A person can be fined thousands of dollars for cruelty to an animal but this proposed abortion law allows for even greater cruelty to be done to an unborn child and the person **doing the act is actually paid to do so**.

We must refrain from trampling on the rights of others. What are the rights of an unborn child in Queensland? Society on the whole does not condone mothers who drink to excess, smoke or ingest illicit substances because of the documented medical harm done to the unborn child at any stage of the pregnancy. This bill is not in line with community expectations.

Please reject this bill in its entirety. Thank you!
4/9/18