

Raylene Dore

SUBMISSION TO ENQUIRY INTO TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL 2018.

This Bill should be opposed for the following reasons:

Let's be clear. Abortion is the deliberate killing of a human being in his/her mother's womb.

This Bill proposes full decriminalisation of abortion, i.e. it allows for the deliberate killing of a human being right up to birth. Recently, the government expressed concern over the level of infanticide in Queensland. So, for example, it is of concern when a child is killed one week after birth; but if this same child was killed two weeks earlier, the Queensland government would not consider it a concern and would provide the means to do that at no cost, with the possibility of charging a doctor with a criminal offence for refusing to kill or refusing to refer the mother to someone who would kill. That is positively disgraceful and should not be allowed.

Full decriminalisation of abortion up to birth is proposed. Yet only 6% of Queenslanders in a recent survey supported such a proposal. It has very little support in Queensland.

The Bill would lead to sex selective abortions. This is highly discriminatory. Is it therefore acceptable to kill on the basis of gender? It has been shown that sex selective abortions in other countries invariably discriminate against females. This is ant-woman. 83% of Queenslanders surveyed in the You Gov Galaxy poll opposed sex-selective abortions. This proposal has little support.

The Bill's proposal to allow abortions past 22 weeks gestation with the approval of at least two doctors is flawed. The second doctor does not even have to see the woman who is approaching for abortion. This will lead to corruption and is not in the woman's best interest.

Part 2, S8 deals with conscientious objection. This is a draconian measure because it makes it a criminal offence for a doctor to refuse (1) to kill a fellow human being or (2) to refer a woman for an abortion to another doctor thus making that doctor complicit in the killing.

This bill should not be passed and existing legislation should stay, with the requirement that the following be added to existing legislation and implemented:

1. Free mandatory independent counselling, from organizations not associated with abortion clinics for women considering an abortion, including information on the development of the

unborn child, the nature of abortion procedures, the physical and psychological risks of abortion, and the availability of support services should the pregnancy be continued.

2. All women seeking an abortion be required to sign an informed consent form, with a compulsory cooling-off period of at least 2 weeks.

3. Coercion to have an abortion be treated for what it is, a form of domestic violence, and thus a criminal offence.

Thank you for the opportunity to put in a submission.

Raylene Dore