

4 September, 2018

Committee Secretary  
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention  
Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Committee Members,

I write this submission for the **Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018** as a concerned citizen and mother of five in Queensland.

I would like to refer to the terms of reference concerning the need to modernise the law.

I submit that the law needs to remain under the Criminal Code. The destruction of life fits fair and squarely under the Criminal Code - regardless of the age of that life.

I submit that the *vulnerable* ones who need protection are the babies in the womb. The safest place, ever, should be in the nurturing womb of a baby's mother. Please do not weaken our laws to disadvantage these precious vulnerable ones.

As an employee of the Queensland Education Department, I recently undertook mandatory, annual training in Student Protection. This course instructs extensively on protecting the students in our schools from harm or potential harm.

Under 'Responsibilities', I quote:

'Under s.13A of the *Child Protection Act 1999*, **any person may** make a report when they reasonably suspect: ....

- an unborn child may be in need of protection because the child will be at risk of suffering significant harm after birth and may not have a parent able and willing to protect the child from harm.

This impacts me as being totally contrary to amendments that could be enacted to this Bill that could open a floodgate of 'significant harm' coming to our most vulnerable ones.

Please keep the laws in our great state tight regarding abortion.

Thank you

Robyn Shanahan  
Concerned Citizen

