

Dear Members of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee,

Submission on the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018

As a female Chinese immigrant, I am distressed by the abortion bill which I witnessed being tabled in Parliament. If my grandmother's poor peasant family had not understood the evil of abortion or infanticide in pre-Communist China, she and her five sisters would have been killed. If my niece had not been born into a pro-life family, she too would have been aborted for being born in the Year of the Tiger, which supposedly produces fierce and wild girls who bring bad luck to their families.¹ I myself may have been aborted, conceived in an unplanned and difficult pregnancy and born prematurely via Caesarean section due to pre-eclampsia.

East Asians traditionally reckon our age from conception, so we are born one year old (rounded up for ease of calculation). We have always recognised the biological fact that the fetus (Latin: "young one") in the womb is a human.

Yet we have seen worrying reports of sex-selective abortions in immigrant communities here in Australia, mirroring the gender imbalances in their countries of origin – on 12 August the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that a study of more than a million births in Victoria revealed "systematic discrimination against females starts in the womb" particularly in Chinese, Indian and South-East Asian communities.²

The proposed legislation allows abortions up to full term for "social reasons". How can we as an advanced nation allow blatant discrimination to continue against the most vulnerable females among us, those in the womb? Moreover, how is it legal to facilitate abortions without full informed consent for pregnant women contemplating a termination?³ Every abortion is an invasive procedure carrying severe mental health risks and the risk of physical injury or death.⁴ The gravity of these side effects increases with late term abortions.⁵ Are we not able as an advanced society to provide better care and support for vulnerable women?

The human heart begins to beat at 16 days, according to a recent Oxford University study.⁶ I stand for equal rights for unborn women, especially those of my own ethnicity who are more often than not treated as inconvenient waste to be discarded. Queensland already has 10,000-14,000

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- 1 Meng Jing and Yang Wanli, "Is a tigress too hard to handle?", *China Daily*, 12 February 2010
[REDACTED] Rosie Cima, "How the Chinese Zodiac Affects National Birth Rates", *Priceonomics*, 24 February 2015 [REDACTED].
 - 2 Aisha Dow, "The 'missing girls' never born in Australia", *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 August 2018
[REDACTED]; "The 'missing girls' never born in Victoria", *The Age*, 12 August 2018 [REDACTED].
 - 3 Dimitra Dubrow, "Doctor's duty to warn about risks", *Maurice Blackburn Lawyers*, 24 June 2011
[REDACTED].
 - 4 "Mental Health Risks of Abortion", *Real Choices Australia*, ref. Dr Priscilla Coleman (2011) Abortion and mental health: quantitative synthesis and analysis of research published 1995-2009. *The British Journal of Psychiatry* 199, 180-186 [REDACTED]; "Possible Physical Side Effects After Abortion", *American Pregnancy* [REDACTED].
 - 5 Debbie Garrett, "Victorian Late Term Abortion", *Real Choices Australia*
[REDACTED].
 - 6 "The Human Heart Begins Beating Just 16 Days After Conception", *IFLScience!*
[REDACTED].

abortions a year under current law,⁷ and as a lawyer I see no reason for a change in the law. We see from the recent Brock Wall case that, in accordance with s 313 of the *Queensland Criminal Code*, a 10-week-old fetus is rightly considered as a human being capable of being murdered.⁸ In this case, the mother was murdered for refusing to abort her child. Would it be just under a new law to dismiss the child's existence, as a mere “product of conception”?

I propose that taxpayer funding frittered away on dog weight-loss programs should instead be spent on real healthcare for pregnant women,⁹ especially with the closure of 40 rural maternity wards in the last 20 years.¹⁰

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,
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7 “Australian Abortion Statistics”, *Children By Choice*

[REDACTED]

8 Natalie Wolfe, “Brock Wall given two life sentences for murdering partner Fabiana Palhares and unborn baby”, 6 August 2018

[REDACTED]

9 “\$100,000 government grant aims to help podgy pooches lose weight”, *Tropic Now*, 28 August 2018

[REDACTED]

10 Rachel McGhee and Megan Hendry, “Rural community calls on health services to bring maternity services back”, *ABC News*, 7 August 2018

[REDACTED]