

**Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Comr**

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**From:** Robert Hoy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 September 2018 10:13 AM  
**To:** Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee  
**Subject:** Late term abortion bill

Dear Committee members,

I strongly urge you to not go ahead with this Bill as it will not take the life of an innocent child but will bring also trauma to the mother as research shows.

This Bill allows sex selection abortions which is a form of eugenics similar to that which ██████ carried out. It sends the message that some genders have a greater value than others, which is anathema to a civilised society and our Australian culture. According to a YouGov Galaxy poll in August 2018, only 8% of Queenslanders support sex-selective abortion, including 5% of women, with 83% opposed.

This extreme Bill would allow abortion past 22 weeks gestation until birth, even for social reasons, if two doctors approve, although the second doctor does not even have to see the woman, or look at her file – and there is no penalty if the abortion is performed without a second's doctor approval. This is absolutely abhorrent and disgraceful. It is shocking that government is even considering this. Some babies are viable outside the womb at 22 weeks gestation, even though the recognised point of viability in Australia is 23 weeks. According to a YouGov Galaxy poll in August 2018, only 6% of Queenslanders support abortion after 23 weeks, including just 3% of women, with 76% opposed

This Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 is unnecessary, as abortion in Queensland is quite accessible, with 14,000 occurring each year. There is no need to decriminalise abortion, as NO woman has ever been convicted for having an abortion. Abortion remaining in the Criminal Code does serve as a necessary deterrent to doctors and as a moral compass for all. It instructs society about the grave consequence of an abortion – a life is destroyed and a woman is harmed.

This Bill would force doctors with a conscientious objection to refer a woman seeking an abortion to another doctor who will be able to facilitate her request, thus making the referring doctor complicit in the outcome. This is a violation of the right to conscientious objection, and a doctor's obligation to recommend what is the patient's best interests.

This Bill would allow abortions to be performed at taxpayer-funded public hospitals and therefore they would be free. The availability of free abortions for any reason at public hospitals would lead to an increase in the abortion rate, with more women being harmed as a result, and put further stress unnecessarily on an already overcrowded public health system.

There are no safeguards in this Bill such as independent counselling, an informed consent requirement and a cooling-off period. Research already shows that abortion and coercion are correlated. The lack of these safeguards in the proposed bill does not help women to make an informed independent decision at such crucial time. A YouGov Galaxy poll in August 2018 showed 26% of Queenslanders personally knew at least one woman who was coerced to have an abortion. Abortion coercion is another form of domestic violence.

Yours truly,  
Robert Hoy,