


Submission to the Health Committee, Parliament House on Labour's Abortion Bill
2018

From: Simone Butler



1. Abortion involves taking the life of another human being, not matter which way you look at it or what intellectual sophistry is devised to call it otherwise. Let us be honest and call a spade a spade.
2. It is then not surprising that 1 in 5 women suffer severe psychological trauma after an abortion. It is a burden on their conscience as much as it is an invasion of their physical bodies.
3. That the bigger the foetus is when aborted, the more traumatic it is for both mother and and foetus, for the foetus does feel the pain of being torn to pieces. It would appear that some of our fellow Australians seem to care more about animals (livestock, pets, animals in the wild) than we do our own sentient, feeling, intelligent species, provided it is not yet outside the mother's body.
4. Fortunately, the majority of Queenslanders (62%) according to a YouGov Galaxy poll in 2018, agree that at 23 weeks, an unborn child is a person with rights which must be protected.
5. It is however unfortunate that the Labour party or government, which poses as the champion of the underdog in society and seeks equal rights for all should deem this class of citizens (the yet to be born), unworthy of equal protection, all in the name of "advancing the cause of women".
6. Let us state this fact again – abortion never has, and never will advance the cause of women. Let all the leading ladies in the Labour Party come out and tell us how they owe their position in the world to having aborted their babies.
Upholding one section of society's rights against another's at all costs is tantamount to upholding capitalist entrepreneurs riding roughshod over the rights of the downtrodden masses, which in this case are the unborn, who do not have a say in how they are being maltreated and killed off and denied entry into this world.
7. This bill does not provide any safety net for women. It has no regard for their mental health beyond getting rid of the unborn child. It does not advice counselling support before or after, or alternative approaches. Abortion is a draconian measure, no matter how sugar coated the terminology is or no matter how much people try to downplay it by calling it a 'termination'.
8. Again, some women are being coerced into having abortions by partners who not want to be tied down or have the financial obligations of looking after a child, or just

want their partner to be sexually available. This is just not in the interest of women, as this bill will leave vulnerable women more liable to be manipulated and used up by domineering partners.

9. Where is Labour's compassion in all this? What women need is SUPPORT, more than anything else. Emotional, physical, psychological, financial support. In these times when single motherhood is no longer vilified and women are no longer deemed "fallen women" because they are having children out of wedlock, killing an unborn child to protect one's image or reputation is an outmoded concept. -killing an unborn child simply to further one's career is cruel, heartless and selfish. Again I question how many women in positions of power or authority can actually point to an abortion as having paved the way for their entry into politics or into the career they are seeking to advance in. Not many, I can warrant you that. Denying another the right to exist, the right to come into this world and make something of themselves, to make their mark on this world purely for selfish reasons is un-Australian. In Australia we pride ourselves in giving everyone a fair go. What about the babies waiting in the wings to be born?

10. It is an interesting paradox to note that Labour is decriminalising abortion in this bill (Part 3 of the bill), yet is at the same time imposing criminal sanctions on anyone trying to dissuade women from taking this draconian step. Is this another example of hypocrisy on the part of our politicians? The bill is imposing a distance of 150m from the Abortion facility, and preventing anyone from taking photos of the activity around the facility. Is it because of the shameful and abhorrent nature of what is going on in the facility?

11. Yes, women are ashamed of having to go to have an abortion or end the lives of their unborn babies. That is a fact. You can only be ashamed if you have a conscience – that is also a fact. Their conscience does not stop troubling them after they have left the facility, although they might feel temporary relief. Women then spiral into depression and regret. We do not need more sick and depressed people in Australia in addition to the drought hit farmers and other suicide risks.

12. I would therefore appeal to the Health Committee – Please Support Women Genuinely. Please listen to what Australian women want. We do not need more abortions or abortion on demand, which is what this bill is leading to. This bill would allow abortions past 22 weeks, even until birth and for social reasons. Decriminalising abortion trivialises it, but does not take away the trauma one feels for killing a child of one's womb.

13. Let us provide a win-win situation for women and the unborn. In this day and age, women are having children by themselves and with support are able to continue with their careers. This is where the emphasis should be. Not treating the unborn as commodities to be disposed of because they might 'hinder one's career'. Such an attitude undermines the very essence of our humanity – our compassion

and care for each other. If Labour truly wants to champion women, it must champion the cause of the unborn. Only women can give birth. Only women know the psychological bond between mother and child. Providing services to support and uphold both mother and unborn child will truly see Labour as the party that cares, and not the party that kills.