

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: re: Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018
Date: Tuesday, 4 September 2018 8:54:01 PM

Sender:
Julie Hawksworth

Thankyou for receiving my submission and your consideration of these views.

I truly have no words sufficient to convey the horror, dismay and disgust I feel regarding this proposed Bill.

As a human being, who was conceived, and then respected with the right to continue living while pre-born and post-born, I cannot remotely contemplate the cold disregard for the value of another human being.

In life, we have values taught, laws made, and an inner conscience that tells us that it is wrong to take the life of another person. That act is called murder.

Here, we are dealing with another persons life. It's as simple and obvious and evidence abounding as that.

And yet here are people (who I feel actually sorry for, that they have become so blinded), that for whatever reason, actively pursue the active killing of another human being, and feel that is fine. If these decisions were made due to lack of understanding of information, I would remotely understand, and I would be optimistic that with education of the undeniable and readily available scientific information, miscarried little bodies, and in-utero ultrasound evidence, that they would see these lives as amazing little human individuals, which should be so valued and nurtured. But to kill another human being, at any stage of life????? How can that remotely be okay???

I feel so sad for those whose conscience, (even in the face of so much readily available, logical, and easy to see scientific evidence, does not have the moral respect that life is about helping others... and about saving and preserving and enriching lives, wherever we humanly possibly can) . That life is precious, and worth so very much, for each and every individual, ... none more, and none less.

This is not about personally attacking the promoters of abortion, or this bill. It is not about condemning those who have had abortions. I feel such sadness for these people, including those introducing this Bill.. because somewhere, along the journey of their lives, they have lost the appreciation of the amazing precious incredibleness of life. If anyone truly appreciates that, than there is no way they could support any Bills or actions, that would bring harm to another person.

This whole discussion, simply comes down to life. What it is? And what value do we as people, place on the life of another person.

I could raise many many discussion points, in dissecting this Bill, and I will raise some. But mostly I would simply like to ask some questions.

To anyone reading this, we are talking about 'pre-born' children, and I would ask...

1. Is a 'pre-born' a human child? Yes/No?
2. Is a 'pre-born' alive? Yes/No?

That basically is the end of the discussion right there, because it is indisputable that the 'not yet born' ARE CHILDREN, and they are VERY MUCH ALIVE.

There is no magic on/off switch, that says.... now in this second, you are not a child, and now 1 second later, something magical happens and now you are. There is no moment on the timeline of human development that switches an on button. Cells are dividing... life is happening from conception, and continue happening right up till death.

The ultrasounds and miscarriages readily prove these are children all along... from conception to birth. Human beings from conception onwards. And there is so much life. We can only be alive or dead. Dead people do not have cells dividing, beating hearts, fingers and toes developing, suck their thumbs, do somersaults, or react in the womb to the sound of their mothers voice, or to music playing. These are children, and they are alive.

Viability??/?/ 22 weeks etc means nothing. It is wrong. Because there is no difference at 21 weeks, 6 days, 23 hours, 59 mins, and 59 seconds, to 22 weeks exactly. On a timeline, there is no difference, except another second of development. So 22 weeks gestation, has no meaning.

It is just a no given on a time-line. It is not a switch on button, that says, now I'm a human child.

IT DOES NOT CHANGE A PRE-BORN CHILD FROM A NON-HUMAN TO NOW BEING A HUMAN. They always have been human. So where and why does this 22 week thing even come into the discussion. It is either IS an LIVING HUMAN CHILD or it isn't? End of story.

10 seconds before birth, this is a child. A child who somersaults, sucks their thumbs, feels stimuli, reacts..... So birth does not change them to be a child. They already are. **THEY ARE DEFINATELY, WITHOUT ANY SHADOW OF DOUBT, WITH ENDLESS PROOF, A CHILD WHILE PRE-BORN!!!! AND THEY ARE SO ACTIVE AND NOT DEAD. SO THEY ARE A LIVING CHILD!!!**

We all say...'Oh we're having a baby!!!' right from the early days.

We grieve, as I have also, holding my miscarried little child in my hands. 8 weeks from conception, and I grieved the death of MY CHILD. That baby was wanted, and loved. **THEY HAD SO MUCH VALUE. THEY WERE MY CHILD AND HAD SO MUCH WORTH.** At 8 weeks. But for whatever reason, their life did not continue, none of us had a choice.

Abortion is a choice. It's a choice to kill a little child, who cannot defend themselves.

At the moment of birth, that child is a child.

10 seconds before the birth, that child is still a child, yes?

Why does our ambos/paramedics, and medical profession fights to 'save' our premies, our pre-born children at risk of dying in-utero, or as new-borns. They rush to perform emergency caesareans to 'save the life of the baby/and the mother. We as a society invests millions to advance technology and provide expertise and intensive care

equipment to save these little ones lives. Why, if they are not children?

And if they are, which we all readily know they are, then how can we on one hand, fight to save, and recognise pre-born children, as children, and then on the other, abort/kill them. How is this even remotely justifiable???

Is it ok to ALLOW the killing of them, simply because they are NOT WANTED. Is that what life means in this civilisation now? If you are wanted you get to live. We'll fight for you. If you are not, you have no value, and can just be killed?

That is just wrong.

Everyone has equal value. The born, and the unborn. Regardless of circumstances. You matter simply because you are a human life, and that is how it has to be. 'To save the life of the baby'. It is recognised as a human baby. 'To save the life of the child'. It is recognised as a child. EVEN WHILE PRE-BORN.

A pregnant mother is in an accident.... We fight to save both their lives. A pregnant mother is involved in an abusive situation We fight to save them both. If the 'child' dies. We recognise the 'pre-born child' as a 'child'. We put offenders on trial for 'murder'. A pregnant mother loses her 'child', as a still-born or as a miscarriage, that little one is classed as 'a child', and she grieves the loss of her child.

Being wanted, can not be the criteria to allow people to kill their children. And at the moment, that is it.

If you are wanted, we fight for you.
If you are not... we're happy to kill you.

Are these children human beings or not?

Going through a birth canal, or being born by caesarian section, or breathing independently is NOT the criteria for WHEN you magically become a human being. So exactly, WHEN???? did you, I or any of us, BECOME a human being?

Simple answer..... When we were conceived... and we simply keep developing, keep cell changing all through life until death. That is life.

So if we KNOW, PRE-BORNS ARE CHILDREN. (And we do!)

If we KNOW, PRE-BORNS ARE ALIVE IN-UTERO, (and we can all see that by a simple ultrasound), then there is NO excuse available, to allow the killing of children. Whatever circumstance, and I readily appreciate with so much empathy, the difficulty of situations, but we are supposed to be human beings. We CAN NOT ACTIVELY KILL CHILDREN!!!

Further questions I would like to add are...

3. Is a 'pre-born' an individual?
4. If so, how can any society say one individual has less or greater rights than another? and ...

5. Please tell me how perfect do I need to be to deserve to stay alive?

Everyone of us has different gifts. ... in different ways ... different areas ... different strengths ... different weaknesses ... different personalities ... different looks We're just each wonderfully different and unique,... and individual. And meant to be. I am not you. You are not me.

But we each have equal worth.

So how do any of us, get to decide, that someone else lives, or someone else dies? That someone elses life is not worth anything, so we can actively scrape it away and discard it.

What sort of a society, have we become?

We protest at the treatment of animals, and animal rights. We see their worth, and care about their suffering. But we don't care about our own human children?

We invest millions to save nature, and endangered species. We invest to save our own who are wanted, and yet actively kill others of our own because they aren't?

Is that our criteria???????

If you are wanted, you live.

If you are not.... you don't. Again, how is that being human?

We fight for the underdog. We get behind those who are in drought or in flood, but we kill our most vulnerable 'underdogs', who need our help, our nurturing, our advocacy and our fight more than anyone. Our pre-borns are us. They are just us. We have all been there, one of them. What if someone said, each of us was not worth anything, and can be just alive one minute, and cruelly killed the next. How is that even human???

I sit here crying, picturing a little child, who is snugly in their mothers womb one minute, safe and secure, just like we were, and then the next, I can't even go on describing.... How is that right???

My son has Downs Syndrome. His name is Jordie. He loves Power Rangers, and was a practice pitcher for a Qld Baseball Team. He loves AFL, and movies. He talks pretty good, and loves Netflix. He played mainstream soccer till a couple of years ago. He's pretty darn good at basketball, and loves most music actually. He can navigate technology probably better than I can in many ways, and has unlimited potential. He gets in trouble sometimes, and is a pain in the butt sometimes, but he is just Jordie... my 14 year old son.

There was no definitive reason to know whether he had Downs Syndrome pre-born or not. I believe I knew in my instincts, because I used to talk the other 4 kids about it during the pregnancy, when we had no actual idea.

When he was born, I jumped in the air (kind of hard after a caesar...ouch, but you get the picture), because he was alive and going to live. He had a heart defect which was beautifully repaired. He is a healthy, active young teenager with a great life.

I didn't care about him having Downs Syndrome. He was just Jordie. He was just ours. Like raising all the kids, somethings are hard. Some things are easy. Raising the kids after my husband left was hard, and yes, that has impacted us all in many ways. But the Downs?

I consider it an honour to have a son with Downs Syndrome, because I see the value of his life, and it is a chance for me to fight for the underdog, with every ounce of conviction in my heart.

Worth is not determined by chromosomal count. Worth is not determined by the flatness of the back of your head, or by whether or not you can talk, or pitch to a Queensland Baseball team, or what team you back in the AFL. Worth is simply there, because you exist.

Aborting Jordie was suggested, before we even knew he had Downs Syndrome. (which was at birth). It was suggested because of my age at the time.

I was furious and dismayed at that then, and even more now. Here was a beautiful child growing inside me, and just like that, if I had of said the word, that life would be ripped away.

And that disgusts me. Since when did humanity become so hardened, and so wrapped in convenience and perfection, that my child doesn't even get a chance if I simply decide, ... nah, don't think I'll take the chance. How perfect does anyone have to be to deserve to keep living?????????

Jordie may or may not ever hold a full-time job. I believe he will have a job. But that does not define his worth or his contribution to society.

His contribution to society, is by the love he gives, and the influence on those around him.

People learn patience, and kindness, and empathy from Jordie. We, as a society need adversity, and need 'deferability' to grow each of us. I do not see Jordie as disabled. I see Jordie as having his own unique gifts and struggles,.... the same as anyone in this world.

I hate the word 'disability', because it sounds like he is less. He's not. He's a character. He's a pain in the 'buttocks' sometimes, like all the kids, but he is amazing, and so funny, and is probably rapidly becoming a painful pimply teenager, who will cause me to tear my hair out, but that's just being a parent.

If I am sad, or sick, he is the first one to wipe my tears. He is the most forgiving of anyone I know. Even if I've been a cranky pants reactive parent. He will tell me he loves me. Sometimes, just to suck up. (and I know it). He so loves the cats. Depending on whether they want food, determines how much they tolerate each of us, but we love them too.

He is just Jordie ... a human being.... part of our human race. One day he will die like the rest of us, and he will be remembered as Jordan, with all his funny little ways, and achievements. But he will be remembered for being so very loved.

But he was suggested to be aborted. Just scraped away out of existence, without even a diagnosis. Just because ... maybe...

Well you know what..... People are people. Regardless of diagnosis, or strengths, or gifts, or weaknesses, or struggles. We all have each of them. We are all just people.

So again, I ask,..... please tell me, how perfect do we have to be, to be worth the right to stay alive?

And how wanted do we have to be, to be worth not being killed, like we mean nothing?

The evidence is all there people. Children are children from conception. Every human being has unlimited worth.

And no law, and no other human being has the right to dictate who is worth enough to continue living, or to be killed.

That is not being human.

Please, consider these points. Because you are in a most enviable influential position to be able to make a stand for the worth of being human.

Everybody needs support in many different ways. Lets invest our money to support all those who need it. The strong, upholding the weak. The able, helping the struggling. Let's get behind the pregnant women struggling and help them to see other options. Not ones they will carry the scars of forever.

Abortion is killing someone who is alive. How is that an option???

Let's provide all the support a pregnant mother and father could need, pre and post birth whatever the difficulty of the circumstances.

Let's give every human being a chance, and if they can not survive, then so be it. I recognise, that there is a fine line at times, between active medical intervention, and how much should we do to prolong life. I was a nurse. I get that.

But this is different. We cannot on one hand uphold the value of life, and do all we can to actively save preemies on one hand, and then randomly kill on the other, based on how wanted we are.

Please, it is not fair to kill, and it is not fair to ask others to refer to another practitioner to kill.

The age of gestation means nothing. This is a human living child. That is unequivocally proven.

Each of us has equal worth, pre or post birth.

This is not about one bill/one law in parliament. This is not about which party you support. This is about our attitude of how we treat other human beings. And if life means nothing to our society, then I don't know what else means anything at all.

Each of us, got to have a chance at life, whatever we've done with it. We had our chance. Every conceived child deserves that chance.

Thankyou for taking the time to read. I implore you to vote no for every child, who has such potential, and is worth the world simply by existing, and we, as adults, need to step up and protect and nurture our young, as a society, as a village ... each and all of them. This is not about womens rights. It's about decency and basic humanity showing respect for the value of life.

I would like to end with a song that goes something like this.

"Who was I supposed to be?"

What were my eyes supposed to see?
Why did I taste of death
Before I even drew a breath
Leaned upon my mothers breast to see?
Oh tell me, who was I supposed to be?"

Regards
Julie Hawksworth.