

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: Submission against Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018
Date: Tuesday, 4 September 2018 8:30:33 PM

I would like to make this submission to object to the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018, to all facets of the act. I have many reasons for objecting, including that it will increase the amount of unborn deaths in Queensland, alongside a negative impact on women's physical and psychological wellbeing. I also believe that the Act will not protect women who are coerced both by their male partners or family members, nor will it give Medical Practitioners the right to object to the procedure (and who do not want to refer).

I believe that Abortion in the media and culture has been sanitized. It is talked about in terms of ending a pregnancy and nothing more. At conception, there is a separate life, with separate DNA. A separate heart beats 10 days after conception. It is distinctly human. It is not the mother's body. There are two separate bodies. It lives inside her body. Abortion methods such as 'suction procedure' or 'vacuum aspiration' involves [REDACTED] the body parts of the unborn child. Other types of abortion involves an [REDACTED] and then delivery or a D and E, where the unborn child is [REDACTED].

Inter-uterine operations on unborn children for Spina-bifida require pain relief for the child. Medical opinion differs as to when a fetus begins to feel pain, however, a fetus even has the presence of stress hormones (cortisol) and endorphins (pleasure). The fetus has pain receptors in the skin that can sense injury from 7 and a half to 15 weeks. Regardless, Bjorn Merker, a Swedish Scientist (2007) has stated in Behavioural and Brain Sciences, that there is 'Demonstrated evidence that children born missing virtually all of the cerebral cortex nonetheless experience pain'. This means that even though the part of the brain that processes pain may not be fully developed, the fetus can still feel pain.

Medical Science has indicated that a fetus has Nociception, which is the bodies ability to perceive harm. An ultrasound of a fetus recoiling from a suction abortion in 'The Silent Scream', shows an example of a fetus intrinsically trying to escape harm.

I believe it is illogical for a society to simultaneously condone the [REDACTED], and decry this same act if it were perpetrated against an animal. The Criminal Code 1899 Section 242 outlines Serious Animal Cruelty, in which it is an offence to inflict pain and suffering to an animal, as well as to cause serious injury, loss of distinct body parts or organs or cause injury endangering life. The maximum penalty is 7 years imprisonment. If it is not ok to treat an animal in such a manner (eg [REDACTED] as in abortion methods), then why is it ok to do it to an unborn human baby? This does not make any sense. Abortion causes pain, suffering (pain receptors, nociception), loss of body parts and endangers... actually ends human life. Abortion and animal cruelty both cause injury, pain and loss of life and both should remain criminal offences.

Abortion also causes psychological and emotional harm to women. Fergusson et al (2006, 2008), Gilchrist, et al (1995), Gissler et al (1996, 2005), Reardon et al (2003), Rue et al (2004) and Mota et al (2010) all have found that abortion not only increases women's suicidal ideation, but the rates of suicide increase for women who have had an abortion. Gissler (2005) not only found that a woman's risk of suicide increased by six times after having an abortion, but sadly that the actual rate of suicides increased by six times in women who had an abortion compared to women who delivered naturally (Gissler 2006).

Abortion also increases a woman's risk for depression (Coleman, 2002, 2006, 2009; Cougale 2003; Dingle 2008; Fergusson 2008; Harlow 2004). Cougle (2003) found that women whose first pregnancy ended in abortion were 65% more likely to be high risk for clinical depression. Coleman (2009) found that abortion increased the risk of women developing a Major Depression by 42%. Mota (2010) found that women who have had abortions are at a 61% increased risk for Mood disorders.

Abortion also increases a woman's risk of anxiety (Broen et al 2004, 2005; Coleman et al 2009, 1998; Cougle 2005). For example, Cougle et al (2005) found that abortion increased the risk of Generalised Anxiety Disorder by 34% and Fergusson et al (2006) found that 39% of women who had abortions,

lived with anxiety by the age of 25.

I could give more research, however, time is running out. That is a small sample of research outlining the mental health impacts on women who have had an abortion.

The proposed bill does not put any protections in place for women who are being co-erced into an abortion by their partners or family members. The YouGov Galaxy Poll in August 2018 has said that 26% of Queenslanders know at least one woman who has been coerced into having an abortion. With no cooling off period or third party (unbiased) counselling offered, women are not given the support or capacity to make informed decisions or make informed consent.

The Bill does not give any protections to babies born alive, as in other countries in the world. The bill does not protect women from being coerced. The bill does not allow conscientious objection by medical practitioners. The Bill allows a painful, life ending procedure to happen to an unborn human life.

I urge you to reject this Bill in its entirety. It is not just a health issue, but a human rights issue. The Australian Human Rights Commission (Humanrights.gov.au) states under Article 6 of the ICCPR that 'every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life'.

Unborn life is human life- this is a medical fact. Unborn life is distinct from its mother (connected, yet distinct entities). As such, unborn life should be protected as a human right, under Article 6 as stated above.

My teenage sons are appalled that people would inflict such cruelty on a voiceless and innocent human. I urge you to seek physical evidence, by looking at Images of unborn fetus' and images of aborted children. That is the real evidence, which has not been allowed to be presented in this submission. I wonder if photographs bring too much reality to what actually happens when a human life is ended in such a manner? If we allow this, where is our humanity? I believe that if we condone this behaviour, it will dull our moral compass, our conscience and we will see the birth of a new era of disregard for the disempowered and disenfranchised in our society.

Warm regards,

Karis Anders



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