

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: Abortion in Queensland
Date: Tuesday, 4 September 2018 11:10:52 PM

The Committee for investigation into Abortion,

Dear Members,

I would like to submit that I believe that these proposed new laws are going in the wrong direction.

We know more today about a “foetus” than ever before. We know that the foetus is just a collection of cells for a very brief period of time soon after conception. We also know that an unborn baby’s heart starts beating very early and it isn’t long before the baby can feel pain and respond to stimulation. A baby can survive an earlier birth than ever before.

Should abortions be allowed, and if so when and under what conditions?

There are some documented cases where a baby has survived an attempted abortion, and that person was very glad to be alive and even met with her mother and the mother admitted that she was very glad that the abortion was not successful.

Is there community support for abortion? Not according to the most recent opinion polls. They show a substantial margin against abortion, particularly since the proposed Bill allows for DIY abortions (Part 3, S10) and also abortion up until birth for any reason, including sex selection abortion.

The poll (YouGov Galaxy Poll) conducted recently (August 2018) shows that 69% of women think that an unborn child at 23 weeks pregnancy is a person with human rights. 79% of women believe that abortion can harm the physical and /or mental health of a woman. 26% of Queensland voters know of at least one woman that decided to have an abortion as a result of pressure from another person. 81% of women oppose abortion after 23 weeks of pregnancy and only 3% of women support abortion up to birth.

Is there legal or moral support for abortion? Not according to a recent murder trial where there was more punishment applied because the victim was pregnant. That would not have been logical if abortion was permitted in a manner consistent with the proposed new laws. Even if the baby was classed as an animal, would it be allowed to be killed or mutilated under animal cruelty laws? (Some methods of abortion are particularly cruel to the baby).

To assess whether there is legal or moral support for abortion, we need to classify whether it is a baby or a “foetus”. Can we really say it is not a baby either when it has a beating heart and is growing into a human being; or when it has been shown by numerous medical examples to be able to survive birth? This also raises the question that if we abort a baby at that ‘survivability’ age, should we not also allow killing of babies after birth?

If it is a human being before birth, shouldn’t it also have the protection of the law before birth, as all babies do after birth?

The above arguments are considering things from the baby’s point of view.

It is acknowledged that there are also arguments from the woman’s point of view. For some women it is inconvenient to have a baby, either because of their financial situation, or perhaps they are too young, or the baby was conceived as a result of rape. Some even consider abortion because they want a particular sex.

However some women regret having an abortion after having one. Can we as a society help this divisive situation? I would submit that we are already helping, given that there is little or no stigma as a result of having a baby out of wedlock these days. Can we be more positive rather than going in the ‘wrong direction’? I believe we could. We could easily offer financial support and counselling to women to have their babies rather than aborting them. This would be of enormous benefit for childless couples who would love to adopt a baby but find it nearly impossible as not many women offer their babies for adoption these days in our

Australian society. Some of the cost of helping to support women could be contributed by the couples wanting to adopt the babies. Counselling could also help women with the psychological problems that women face, even in the extreme case of rape. It can be seen that the baby should not be punished for the wrong that was done by the father. It is also important to note that the baby is also partly from the mother's own body, and therefore the baby should not be condemned illogically, as if it had done something wrong.

In summary, I believe that amending the abortion laws and practices in a more positive way could be a defining moment in our society. It could be a "win - win" situation; firstly if it was an advantage for babies as they would have a chance at life. Then it could be an advantage for mothers as they wouldn't have the emotional burden of regretting the fact that they aborted their baby. It could also be an advantage to childless couples as they wouldn't have to face the difficulties of having to look overseas to find a baby to adopt. Lastly, it could be an advantage to our legal system to stand firm against diluting our laws which rightly punish those that kill babies or young children or pregnant mothers. If we make the proposed changes to our abortion laws, I think that as a society, we will regret it; and a government that proceeds in that direction will rightly face the condemnation of their voters. Remember that according to the above mentioned poll, 43% of women say that they would be less likely to vote for an MP who supported the Bill compared to 14% of women that are more likely to vote for an MP that supports that Bill. A government that ignores the wishes of the people is not governing the way it is supposed to.

This is my submission by Charles Ralph Bazley of [REDACTED]