

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)  
Subject: Submission against Jackie Trad's Abortion Bill  
Date: Wednesday, 5 September 2018 9:12:10 AM

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5/9/18

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing to express our objection in the strongest possible terms to the proposed changes to the Abortion laws in Queensland.

Abortion is the taking of a life that would continue without intentional harmful intervention against that young person's well-being.

At something around 20 weeks, a life can be sustained outside the womb. To intervene against that life is to take it. The time at which life can continue outside the womb with support is being pushed back by skilful medical care and advances all the time, when that is offered. Please see this New York Times article from 2015 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] which reported that some babies born at 22 weeks were surviving at that time with medical support, and some of them suffered no significant developmental delays or disabilities. Of course, a baby who experiences either or both of those can be a cherished and welcomed member of their family and of society, with adequate care.

At the time when I (Margie) was born in Queensland in January 1962, at 8 weeks premature, a child born that early had only a 10% survival rate. There were two babies who were that premmy in the Rockhampton hospital at that time, and one available humidicrib. Although Margie was removed from the humidicrib to make way for the other, smaller baby, the other baby died. That was in spite of the best care available being offered to him or her. All possible resources should be directed towards saving lives, not taking them.

The Hippocratic Oath dates from circa 275 AD and exerts a foundational influence on modern medicine. It says in part:

'I will use treatment to help the sick according to my ability and judgment, but never with a view to injury and wrong-doing. Neither will I administer a poison to anybody when asked to do so, nor will I suggest such a course. Similarly I will not give to a woman a [pessary](#) to cause abortion. But I will keep pure and holy both my life and my art.' (Wikipedia, accessed 5/9/18, translation by [James Loeb](#).)

Any culture is known by how it treats its most vulnerable members, including those who are unable to speak for themselves. We all, individually and corporately, experience consequences of our individual and joint actions. Racism is abhorrent because it extends a different treatment to one person compared to another, based on superficial characteristics. Why should a child in one womb be operated

against to die, when doctors would do everything they could to operate in order to save the life in another?

At this point in time, our daughter-in-law and son are currently expecting their first child, and our first grandchild. This is a momentous occasion for us, and we anticipate this child's birth with great joy.

We want this child to be born into a State and a culture which celebrates life, and cares for its vulnerable citizens, especially those who cannot voice their own objections to changes in the law which are to their detriment.

This is a sacred trust, and we cannot remain silent.

Our legacy as a generation must be to make every effort to preserve life, without fear or favour, not to take it.

Yours sincerely,

Ian and Margie Vonhoff