

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018
Date: Wednesday, 5 September 2018 9:30:37 AM

I would like to register my opposition to the proposed Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018, and would ask the committee carefully consider the extreme nature of this bill, for the following reasons:

1. The health and well being of vulnerable women. This bill allows for abortion on demand up to a gestation of 22 weeks. There are no safe guards written in to allow for independent counselling, where all options can objectively be presented, and for a cooling off period between the initial appointment and the procedure, for women to make an informed decision. This leaves women susceptible to coercion, and in danger of making an ill-informed, life-changing, irrevocable decision. This does not empower or support women. Safe guards need to be put in place, and informed consent must be a requirement.

This informed consent should include information regarding the development of the baby; the nature of the procedure; the real risks involved in abortion, including physical, emotional and psychological risks, such as infertility, infection, haemorrhage, an increased risk of breast cancer, depression and other mental health issues, substance abuse, and poor self-esteem; and support and options available should she choose to continue the pregnancy.

2. This bill allows for abortion after 22 weeks gestation, up until birth, even if only for social reasons. Two doctors are required to sign off on this, but the second doctor is not actually required to physically see the client or their file, and there is no penalty if the abortion is performed without the second doctor's approval.

In Australia, a baby's life is considered viable when it has reached a gestation of 23 weeks. It is abhorrent that a government would consider bringing in to law, the opportunity to discard the life of an unborn child, as if it had no value. All life is precious, and there must be measures put in place to provide a voice and basic human rights for these children who cannot speak for themselves.

3. This bill forces doctors with a conscientious objection to refer a client to another doctor who is willing to facilitate her request. This still makes the referring doctor complicit in the outcome, which could result in forcing some conscientious objectors out of the medical profession, as well as deterring some people from entering the profession. This result would only add more pressure to our public health system, and potentially leave a shortage of general practitioners.

4. Recent independent market research, commissioned by Cherish Life Queensland & the Australian Family Association, was conducted by YouGov Galaxy. This online opinion poll of a representative sample of 1000 Queensland voters was conducted from 6 to 8 August 2018, with 21 questions in total. The questions were written by YouGov Galaxy. For any inquiries regarding the methodology of this research, please contact [REDACTED]:
Email: [REDACTED]

The results of this poll indicate the majority of Queenslanders are opposed to the extreme measures presented in this bill.

I believe this bill is extreme, and abhorrent in what it is proposing, and I implore the committee to carefully consider the implications for women and our society, if this bill is allowed to proceed in its current form.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Coral Moody

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