

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Abortion Bill 2018  
**Date:** Wednesday, 5 September 2018 11:53:16 AM

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To whom it may concern,

As former registered nurse and midwife and a mother of 5, 4 daughters and now grandmother of 15, 10 being girls, I am most concerned with the draft of this Abortion Bill.

When training as a nurse in Sydney in the 1970s, terminations of pregnancies TOPs were performed in the general hospitals. These theatre lists were hectic and messy and not at all pleasant for the scrub nurse, as a teenage junior nurse this task was often mine. I don't ever remember being given a choice if I wanted to participate but I do vividly remember the harassment and bullying that the more senior nursing staff were subjected to if they refused to participate due to religious beliefs or against their values. I am concerned that if this Bill is passed and abortions are performed in hospitals there will be many staff that will object and feel coerced to act against their values just to escape harassment and possible loss of employment. This could cause a significant loss of caring competent staff.

Health professionals desire to help and promote healing not cause harm. Many studies have proved that abortions are not the best health option in an unwanted pregnancy. Women need real help they need information, they have a right to be intelligently informed of all the possible physical, emotional, spiritual and especially mental trauma and risks. The unplanned and unwanted pregnancy is often just the tip of the iceberg that brings a woman to consider an abortion. Counselling would help to identify these contributing factors so real solutions and supports can be provided. Even a cooling off period of a few days from ringing till the actual abortion could help stop the knee jerk reaction that many that suffer postabortion grief say would have given them time to be sure of their decision.

Care is needed for vulnerable women from domestic violence that feel so worthless and without hope already even before falling pregnant, that the abortion is not then another act of violence. So often drugs and alcohol are also involved with DV, so a quick fix abortion is not really helpful but in actual fact maybe enabling addictions to continue.

I would like to see my granddaughters in a society that values them and all life from conception to a natural death.

Yours sincerely  
Joy Chegwidden

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[Sent from Yahoo7 Mail on Android](#)