

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 September 2018 11:27 AM  
**To:** Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Submission regarding the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018

To the Committee Secretary,

Abortion is still a crime in Queensland and that has to change.

Thanks to the efforts of many, we saw for the first time in Queensland history, a Labor Government go to an election with a promise to decriminalise abortion in this state and be re-elected with a clear majority.

This hasn't happened overnight. It has happened after years of campaigning from women who have been fighting for this for decades.

We know that abortion is one of the most common medical procedures that Australian women will have with around 1 in 3 women choosing to terminate a pregnancy at some point during their lifetime.

We also know that rural and regional women are particularly disadvantaged in Queensland, and often forced to pay thousands of dollars to access advice and services that could be made available at regional GP clinics, if doctors weren't afraid of criminal prosecution under these archaic laws.

As a young Queensland woman, I was subjected to venomous anti choice attacks, outside a women's clinic in Brisbane, when trying to access health services.

Until I was in a position where I had to make a decision about whether or not to continue with an unplanned pregnancy, I had no idea what Queensland women had to go through every day, and I have fought for this change ever since. I have never regretted my decision. We should trust women to make the right decisions about their bodies.

The escalation of the anti-choice campaign in Queensland is incredibly concerning. The harassment of women at clinics right here in Brisbane is becoming terrifyingly reminiscent of what is seen in America, with women and their families being filmed and harassed.

The Queensland Law Reform Commission recommendations are based on sound, factual principles and reflect the positions of recognised health care organisations and experts including the Australian Medical Association and the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG).

I support the proposed bill in its entirety.

Most importantly, I know that the community is on our side and 2018 is the year to drive change in Queensland and ensure decriminalisation happens once and for all.

I am so proud of our pro choice MPs for their courage and determination in the face of relentless lies and personal attacks. I encourage all pro choice Queenslanders to continue to support them by having meaningful, evidence based conversations with their family, friends and the broader community.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Brogan

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