

Below are a number of questions relating to key provisions of the Bill

Lawful terminations - not more than 22 weeks pregnant

Clause 5 of the Bill allows that a medical practitioner may perform a termination on a woman who is not more than 22 weeks pregnant. Clause 10 of the Bill provides that a woman who consents to, assists in, or performs a termination on herself does not commit an offence. Clause 22 of the Bill repeals Sections 224 to 226 of the Criminal Code which make it an offence to terminate a pregnancy.

Do you agree that terminations should be lawful on request up to 22 weeks?

Yes Undecided No

If you wish to explain your answer, you can do so here:

I fully support the repeal of Sections 224-226 of the CC. I believe most fundamentally in all women's reproductive rights, and support termination of pregnancy within a regulated health framework.

Lawful terminations - more than 22 weeks pregnant and with the agreement of two medical practitioners

Clause 6(1) of the Bill allows that a medical practitioner may perform a termination on a woman who is more than 22 weeks pregnant if the medical practitioner considers that the termination should be performed, and has consulted with another medical practitioner who also agrees that the termination should be performed. Clause 6(2) of the Bill outlines the matters which a medical practitioner must consider when considering whether a termination should be performed - these being all relevant medical circumstances, the woman's current and future physical, psychological and social circumstances, and the professional standards and guidelines that apply to the medical practitioner in relation to the performance of the termination.

Do you agree that terminations should be lawful beyond 22 weeks with the agreement of two medical practitioners?

Yes Undecided No

If you wish to explain your answer, you can do so here:

I do support this clause, and think it appropriate to defer to the qualified holistic assessment of the medical practitioners in determining the best outcome/consideration for the woman and her pregnancy.

Lawful terminations - more than 22 weeks pregnant and in an emergency

Clause 6(3) of the Bill allows that a medical practitioner may, in an emergency, perform a termination on a woman who is more than 22 weeks pregnant if the medical practitioner considers it necessary to perform the termination to save the woman's life or the life of another unborn child.

Do you agree that terminations beyond 22 weeks should be allowed in an emergency?

Yes Undecided No

If you wish to explain your answer, you can do so here:

Yes, I agree with intent of this clause, as it would seem medically appropriate in such a circumstance/emergency scenario.

Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 Inquiry

Submission form - Your response (Part 2)

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Conscientious objection

Clause 8 of the Bill allows for a health practitioner to conscientiously object to the performance of a termination. The health practitioner is required to disclose their conscientious objection and refer or transfer the woman to another health practitioner or health service provider. The clause does not limit any duty owed by a registered health practitioner to provide a service in an emergency.

Do you agree with allowing a health practitioner to conscientiously object to the performance of a termination, except in emergencies?

Yes Undecided No

If you wish to explain your answer, you can do so here:

I agree with, and respect, a practitioner's right to conscientious objection on personal grounds. I would, however, be cautious about how this would be approached in practice, with respect to their patient's well-being. An individual's personal values and/or beliefs, if they impinge (or impede) their practice, should be presented in a careful and nonjudgmental manner that does not lead to unnecessary trauma or shaming of a patient who presents to their care in this vulnerable situation. I would be concerned about how practitioners' were guided in this matter - PD training may be useful.

Safe access zones

Clauses 11 to 14 of the Bill allow for the establishment of safe access zones at termination service premises. The safe zone applies to an area within 150 metres of the entrance of the termination service premises, unless a distance is prescribed by regulation. It also establishes penalties for prohibited conduct or restricted recording (including the publication and distribution of a restricted recording) within a safe access zone.

Do you agree with the establishment of safe access zones within 150m of the entrance of termination service premises and associated penalties for prohibited conduct or restricted recording?

Yes Undecided No

If you wish to explain your answer, you can do so here:

YES, YES, YES, YES

Offences for unqualified persons

Clause 25 of the Bill outlines offences for an unqualified person who performs, or assists in performing, a termination on a woman. Both offences have a maximum penalty of 7 years imprisonment. Do you agree with the proposed offences for unqualified persons who perform or assists with a termination?

Yes Undecided No

If you wish to explain your answer, you can do so here:

This should be enacted in the context safety for women, and would also imply an adherence to medical best practice.

Other issues

If you wish to make any other comments in relation to this Bill, you can do so here:

This has been a long overdue political action, and I thank the Queensland Parliament for finally bringing this matter to attention. I fully support the decriminalisation of Termination of Pregnancy for women in the State of Qld. Because I recognise and value the rightful capacity of women to reproductive self-determination. I am a qualified social worker of 19 years practice experience. Within my professional capacity, I have previously worked for 7 years providing (un-biased) pregnancy options counselling for women in Queensland. I carry with me the countless voices of the women I supported, along with their individual stories. I also carry the voices of their advocates and supporters: their partners, their mothers and fathers, sisters, grandparents and aunts, friends, neighbours and community workers, doctors, teachers, employers and guidance officers...Their stories are all unique, their stories are their own. So too, are their choices. I just had the privilege to share in them, and to support them. I whole-heartedly support this Bill. Thank you, Rhonda Cale.

*I consent to the publication of my submission responses to this TOP Bill.

*I would be happy to act as a witness (or provide further feedback) at the Brisbane hearings, if the opportunity arose

Sincerely,
Rhonda Cale

