

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [abortionlawreform](#)  
**Subject:** submission re abortion law reform  
**Date:** Wednesday, 15 June 2016 8:45:11 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam

I commend the Committee to recommend the Abortion Law reform bill be passed for the sake of all Queensland women, their families and their doctors.

I am a GP who offers medical abortion services to my patients. Abortion is not on any woman's bucket list ( I commend you to watch Amanda Bradley's Ted x talk of the same title which explores this issue in a clear and unbiased way) but contraception is not perfect – even the most reliable methods have up to a 1% failure rate. Our systems in Australia are also far from perfect- sex education is not universally delivered in Australian schools, contraception is not always easy to access and women's lives are far from perfect. Domestic violence, rape , incest , date rape, poverty disempower women every day removing their abilities to avoid unplanned pregnancy. Abortion is necessary in any civilized society. We can work to reduce rates – but only by better education and contraception provision.

The current law does not reduce abortion rates – it just makes the provision more difficult and access for women a more stressful process. It limits doctors wish to be involved in abortion provision – pushing up prices and meaning the most vulnerable are the least likely to be able to access affordable services.

There is good data from Europe and the UK that decriminalizing abortion does not increase rates. Nor will it increase the tiny minority of abortions performed at later gestations. 99% of abortions in Australia are performed in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

I am also a mother of two teenage girls who I hope will have every opportunity in life offered to their male counterparts. A contraception failure resulting in an unplanned pregnancy has the potential to derail their lives. I ask that abortion be legally available so they can fulfill their basic human rights of controlling their fertility ( as recommended by the WHO)

It is a woman's right to choose if she has children, and how many children

she has and when she has them in her life plan. That is the main thing that distinguishes the life of a woman in Queensland from women struggling in the slums of third world countries.

Dr Heather McNamee

Cairns Doctors

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