

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [abortionlawreform](http://abortionlawreform)  
**Subject:** Abortion law reform submission  
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The Parliamentary Committee on Abortion Law Reform

Parliament House  
Brisbane QLD 4000

25<sup>th</sup> June, 2016

Dear Sirs and Mesdames,

My wife and I have been shocked and dismayed at the Member for Cairns' Private Member's Bill advocating what amounts to a complete removal of all restraints concerning abortion.

We believe strongly that the legislation that stands at present provides sufficient guidelines and flexibility to allow medical practitioners to determine, in consultation with the mother, whether surgical termination of a pregnancy is indicated.

We understand that around 14,000 abortions were performed in Queensland last year, and assume that these were carried out in accordance with the law as it presently stands. This would appear to indicate that the physical and mental health of the pregnant woman was taken into consideration, along with the viability of the foetus, as required under present law.

The removal of all strictures as proposed by Mr Pyne would lead inevitably to late term abortions in which a viable infant is delivered and left to die. It is extremely ironic that medical science is able to save infants miscarried from around 20 weeks gestation and gives such infants the status of 'premature baby,' while a foetus aborted for non-medical reasons at the same stage or even later would be regarded as merely a bunch of tissues.

Woman who find themselves pregnant, and who late in the pregnancy cannot cope with the prospect of motherhood, deserve sympathy and help from medical practitioners, government, and support organisations, not to mention the man who made her pregnant. But the willful destruction of viable foetuses merely for convenience is a crime, and must continue to be regarded as a crime.

We urge the committee to recommend to the parliament that the laws as they stand at present are sufficient. They do allow for abortions that are determined as medically necessary, and they do protect the most helpless of all human beings.

Sincerely,

Donald Angus McLellan,  
and Ruth Kay McLellan

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