



22 June, 2016

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane, QLD 4000

Please Vigorously Recommend Against Abortion in Queensland

Dear Committee Members,

This submission is made by the **Canberra Declaration**, which has been signed by 67,710 Australian citizens of which 18,207 are Queenslanders. We oppose the **Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016** and ask that you vigorously recommend against it.

Under the heading '**Human Life**' the Canberra Declaration states – "**We believe that all human life, being made in the image of God, has intrinsic and equal value from conception to life's natural end. ...The very heart of a humane and civilised society is based on the way it treats its most vulnerable and innocent members including the unborn and the disabled. ... We will not comply with any directive that compels us to participate in or facilitate abortion ... or any other act that involves the intentional taking of innocent human life.**"

The Bill in its current form allows abortion right up to the day of birth for any reason. This would make it even easier in Queensland to kill defenceless and voiceless unborn human beings using the most horrific and inhumane methods imaginable. It is abhorrent that this **Abortion Law Reform Amendment Bill** was tabled with the full knowledge of recent research which confirms that unborn babies can feel pain as early as 20 weeks gestation. It is repugnant to us that the **Woman's Right to Choose** means giving mothers the exclusive right to kill their own babies by violating their maternal instincts.

Through abortion human life is devalued and commodified. The sacredness of every human life is ignored. Only last week the Health Minister for Queensland said that between 2005 and 2015 records show that 204 Queensland babies were born alive after failed late-term abortions and left to die unattended.

[REDACTED] The Bill in its current form would allow sex-selective abortions and abortion for any detected or suspected abnormality, even as minor a cleft palate. This Bill sends the message that certain types of people are disposable.

It is a national reproach that abortion is by far the leading cause of death in Australia. The estimated 100,000 abortions in Australia each year exceeds the combined total of the top five official causes of death in Australia <http://www.abc.net.au/health/thepulse/stories/2014/03/27/3972711.htm> . The estimated four million abortions in Australia since the 1970s has wiped out a third of our younger generations.

Because we believe abortion is a crime against the personhood of unborn babies and our own humanity we ask you to throw out this Bill. Please recommend ways to make Queensland a state that affirms the right to life of every unborn child and has compassion for every person. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

David Rowsome

for the Canberra Declaration Team & Community

PS I feel that calling for submissions during the lead up to a Federal Election will limit a fair response.

Canberra Declaration

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