

23 June, 2016

To the Health Committee Inquiry

Re: The Abortion Law Reform Amendment Bill 2016

I am aware that on Tuesday 10 May, a bill to decriminalise abortion in Queensland was introduced to State Parliament by Independent MP for Cairns, Rob Pyne.

I understand that if passed, it will remove sections 224, 225 and 226 from the 1899 Criminal Code.

I strongly believe abortion should be decriminalised in Queensland. Women have the right to make decisions about their own bodies and reproductive lives without fear of coercion or criminalization. Criminal law and punitive sanctions are frequently used to control such choices.

I am calling on the Queensland government:

- To pass the bill to decriminalise abortion in Queensland.
- To stop the use of criminal law to regulate reproduction.
- Empower women to claim and exercise their rights, so that every woman can make free and informed choices about their reproduction rights free from discrimination, coercion and violence.
- Acknowledge that women have the right to have a say in the laws, policies and programs that affect their bodies and their lives.
- Acknowledge that women have the right to have access to comprehensive education on human sexuality, sexual and reproductive health, human rights and gender equality.
- To provide access to safe abortion services.

As you know, sexual and reproductive rights are protected under International Law. They are stated under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women.

I sincerely hope that the Queensland government will do justice to women and respect their reproductive rights.

Sincerely

Adela Brent
Australian citizen.

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