

From: [REDACTED]
To: [abortionlawreform](#)
Subject: Submission in support of the legalisation of abortion
Date: Thursday, 23 June 2016 7:54:43 PM

Dear Inquiry Secretary
HCDSDFVP Cttee.

I write to express my opinion in support of the legalisation of abortion for all pregnant women without restriction at least up to the stage of pregnancy where the foetus would be independently viable (at least 24 weeks). I am of this opinion philosophically, as I believe that the rights of a woman with a fully developed human brain should outweigh that of an embryo/foetus which, if early in development does not have a brain at all so cannot be thought of as having any attribute that makes it human beyond a potential. The same applies to a large degree at a slightly later stage in pregnancy where whatever functioning brain tissue there may be, does not yet embody thoughts or other characteristics of a human being beyond the existence of a potential. I am of this opinion more practically because without abortion, unwanted pregnancies will often become unwanted children and a burden to their family and often later to society and the prison system and these children will often have unhappy lives that need never have started. I note that providing an abortion is far cheaper than providing maternity services, followed by social work services, education services and quite likely juvenile detention and then adult correctional services. I also note that in a world on the verge of environmental collapse due to human population pressure and especially in Australia which has suffered more than any other part of the world in terms of the effect of population pressure causing mammal extinctions, it is wrong to force women to have babies. I believe therefore that having an abortion is a much less momentous decision than deciding to continue a pregnancy and bring another person in to the world. Since continuing a pregnancy is currently legal, then abortion should be just as legal.

In my work as a prison doctor and as a doctor in the community, I have encountered women who were being forced by circumstances into continuing unwanted pregnancies that they wanted to abort because abortion services are exceedingly restricted in our public hospital. I believe that as an accompaniment to legalising abortion in Queensland, abortion services should be provided in the public hospital system with the same eligibility and accessibility as maternity services. The current legal status of abortion in Queensland clearly inhibits public hospitals providing abortions on an equal footing with maternity care. I believe that there would be appreciable savings to the Government within months if abortion was able to prevent even a small proportion of pregnancies advancing to requiring obstetric care followed by the ongoing burden on the state of unhappy mothers with unwanted children.

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