Submission No. 213
Received 24 June 2016

From: [redacted]
To: abortionlawreform
Subject: Submission - Abortion Law Reform (Women"s Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016
Date: Friday, 24 June 2016 2:58:09 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the *Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016* being passed in Queensland.

The Explanatory note to the bill claims that abortion being part of the criminal code is *"an embarrassment to Queensland...These archaic laws are dangerous and have no place in modern society where women should always have control over their own bodies."* I found these statements to be misleading and self-defeating.

The use of *embarrassment* as a motivation comparing ourselves with 'the state next door' is no reason to join them in their inhumanity. What IS and should be truly embarrassing is that in this "modern society" where medical knowledge has shown beyond a shadow of a doubt that the foetus *at any time before birth is a fully living human being*, we are considering a bill that would allow death to one of our own citizens on the basis of another citizens choice. Yes that other person is their mother; but surely in this 'non-archaic age' a mother should be one who protects and defends her child's right to live, not to be put to death. I would contend that the truly "archaic laws" we are dealing with here are the ones that are being proposed to condone and defend public barbarity: abortion on demand.

The irony of the argument put forward being that this is a society where *"women should always have control over their own bodies"* is a laughable double-standard. By choosing to be sexually active and risk becoming pregnant these women already exercised 'control over their own bodies': now indeed they do have *a duty to exercise the control of their own bodies by giving birth.* I would like to remind the government that birth by the way is not a disease or medical condition to be cured. It is the recognition that a valid human being (and Australian Citizen) exists and deserves the right to live.

Mr Pyne in his address stated:
"Surely a young person should not have to ruin their young lives by proceeding with a pregnancy if they are not ready and their family and their doctor think it unadvisable. When nearly a third of women will seek an abortion over their lifetime, it is about time our laws reflected modern values that trust and empower women to make decisions about their own bodies."

To this I would answer:

- **Surely** a young person should not have to ruin their young lives by inadvertently *killing a human life within their own body*, only to find out later that this was the reality and they were lied to by everyone closest to them, leading to long-term trauma and undiagnosed post-abortion grief.
- **Surely** a young person who feels not ready *to be a mother* should be encouraged to *follow through with their pregnancy*, to give birth to the living child within their womb, and offer that child up for adoption in a loving and stable home.
- **Surely** 'a family and doctor who think it unadvisable' to give birth are no replacement for an actual moral law that should exist in this country that says *killing anyone* is a

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grave offence against basic human rights.

- **It is about time** our laws reflected *traditional* values that encourage and support women to make positive decisions about their *children's bodies* – as well as their own. Neither the mother NOR the child die from giving birth.

Your sincerely,

Patrick Keady
[redacted]