

From: [REDACTED]
To: [abortionlawreform](#)
Subject: Abortion law reform considerations
Date: Friday, 24 June 2016 3:03:21 PM

To the Research Director, Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

I would like to table my concerns on the proposed changes currently before you regarding changes to the current laws concerning termination of pregnancy in Queensland.

As a father of four young children now I still carry with me the terrible scars of having encouraged a girlfriend I had when I was 19yrs of age to abort our baby. If I knew the years of deep regret and guilt that would follow that decision, I can honestly say, I would not have persuaded the action we both agreed to take.

I do not believe the changes being sought have been carefully considered for the long-term damage they will perpetuate on the individuals that are currently seeking they're options regarding pregnancy termination.

From my experience in running a mental health support group, this issue is not to be lightly considered. Any efforts to streamline and/or speed up the process I consider ill advised, as I have not met even one person in my 53yrs who are glad they made that decision. All I have met put it as the greatest single event they have regretted their whole life. A surprising number of sufferers with mental health problems share this one common experience which has often resulted in self harm and even suicide.

I hope you will look at the longitudinal research that is available on this topic of those who have regrettably followed this course of action. Then, I would suggest you question who is really driving these changes, and what are the motives of those in the industry who have the most to gain from these changes which seem to make up the most of your first four considerations.

In finishing, I notice that only your fifth consideration touches on the personal trauma the people most affected by these proposed law changes OFTEN experience, and even then it's only the woman. The fact that counselling for men is not even mentioned is concerning. Clearly there are many who still suffer silently, as I have, who to this day are not being heard or considered. I hope you will pause on your deliberations and carefully reflect on the ever increasing pain 1000's upon 1000's of pregnancy terminations that occur each year are currently bringing to women, as well as men, and look to strengthen the pre-counselling rather than post-counselling services, which are clearly, by the proposals on the table before us, absent and inadequate.

Sincerely

Wayne Thornton

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