

From: [REDACTED]
To: [abortionlawreform](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Friday, 24 June 2016 3:29:24 PM
Attachments: [Question on Notice Hon Cameron Dick in relation to babies left to die after abortion.pdf](#)

24/06/2016

Dear Parliamentary Committee Members,

I am writing with regards to the private members' bill looking to change the abortion laws in Queensland.

I ask that you note my opposition to the bill before parliament, which removes all protections and puts in no safeguards. I also bring the following to your attention.

Abortions can, in certain circumstances, be carried out legally in Queensland. In fact, in 2014 more than 10,000 abortions were performed in Queensland - on par with abortions in other Australian States.

I believe that the community, and women in particular, are looking for is better options than abortion and more support for those who find themselves in a crisis and/or unplanned pregnancy.

It should be considered that abortion more often than not leads to terrible consequences for mother with the possibility of physical harm and almost certainly some form of mental illness i.e. depression. And abortion always leads to the death of a child; any basic biology book will confirm that life does begin at conception.

A recent survey in the Cairns Post showed that almost 68% oppose any changes to the abortion laws.

Another survey conducted by Galaxy Research in 2010 shows :

"Almost everyone (94%) believes that before having an abortion a woman should receive free independent counselling and information so that she can make a fully informed decision

Three in four (77%) of Queensland voters believe that abortion can harm the mental and physical health of a woman

An evenly split attitude in Queensland towards decriminalising abortion, contrary to recent claims by the pro-abortion lobby that there is 90% support for such a move.

When asked "up to what stage of pregnancy would you allow abortion", 29% of Queensland voters said "not at all" and 45% said only in the first three months – meaning 74% of Queensland voters are opposed to abortion past the first trimester. It also should be noted that support for abortion even in the first three months is qualified, with 49% of Queensland voters opposed to abortion for non-medical, that is financial or social, reasons." Source: family.org.au

I also bring to your attention the "Question on Notice" by Mark Robinson MP and answer with regards to babies being born alive and left to die as a result of late term abortions in Queensland (see attached). Is this really how Queenslanders look after their most vulnerable?

I also ask that you view the documentary "The Silent Scream" as this is what you and all Members of Parliament are being asked to make legal.

As our elected representatives you have a responsibility to put the health and safety of women, and that of their children first.

Regards,

David Stone

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**Question on Notice
No. 779
Asked on 11 May 2016**

DR ROBINSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON C R DICK)—

How many babies aged 20 weeks or more were born alive after a termination procedure in Queensland hospitals each year between 2005 and 2015 (presented annually), and will the Minister confirm whether these viable babies are provided pain relief or any other form of palliative care?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Cleveland for his question.

Within Queensland, it is unlawful to administer a drug or to perform a surgical or other medical procedure intending to terminate a pregnancy unless such conduct is authorised, excused, or justified by law. Section 282 of the Criminal Code provides a defence when the abortion was performed for the ‘preservation of the mother’s life’. This has been interpreted by the courts as applying where the termination is necessary to preserve a woman from serious danger to her life, physical health or mental health, which the continuation of her pregnancy would entail and, in the circumstances, the termination is not out of proportion to the danger to be averted.

There are almost always severe circumstances leading to a small number of women who choose to terminate a pregnancy after 20 weeks gestation. The number of termination procedures where babies are born with signs of life at this stage is a very small proportion of the total live births each year in Queensland.

Calendar year	Termination with livebirth outcome
2005	8
2006	16
2007	20
2008	15
2009	13
2010	17
2011	20
2012	20
2013	23
2014	25
2015	27

I am advised these numbers represent less than 0.05% of the total number of live births each year (including all hospitals in Queensland, both public and private hospitals combined). I am further advised that this percentage has remained relatively stable over time.

The Queensland Maternity and Neonatal Clinical Guideline: *Therapeutic termination of pregnancy* (the guideline) has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders to reflect contemporary evidence based clinical practice in Queensland, and is endorsed for use in all Queensland Health facilities.

Care of a baby following birth is individualised to the specific circumstances, and informed by the choices of the family. In line with clinical guidelines, a range of pre and post terminal cares are provided. These may include physiological support of the baby to relieve potential for suffering, and psychological support for families including bereavement counselling.