

From: [REDACTED]
To: [abortionlawreform](#)
Subject: Research Director: submission addressing any aspect of the Bill: Abortion Law Reform (Woman"s Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016 ...
Date: Friday, 24 June 2016 3:31:01 PM

Dear Research Director,

Just a quick note to express my concern over the Abortion Law Reform Amendment Bill 2016 tabled on 10 May 2016 by Rob Pyne. This bill allows abortion for any reason, up to birth, without any safeguards for either mother or baby, including babies viable outside the womb who will be allowed to be killed for no medical reason. With improved medical science and ultrasound technology, we know the child in the womb is human, feels pain, and therefore dismemberment and poisoning of an unborn child is barbaric.

It is also misleading, as has been done by Mr Pyne and others, to say abortions cannot be carried out under the current Queensland law, since around 10,000 per year are performed and no person has ever been convicted under the law.

Are we now headed towards a situation where the concept of a 'period of grace' of maybe 3 months with a newborn, during which time the mother can freely dispose of the baby if it is deemed unsatisfactory for any reason, is the logical next step?

Australian Philosopher and Princeton University Academic (he went there after a long career at Melbourne's Monash University) Peter Singer (and others) has been promoting this for years now. Singer claims that "Since neither a newborn human infant nor a fish is a person, the wrongness of killing such beings [a fish or a newborn] is not as great as the wrongness of killing a person." This idea that a living, breathing, perfectly happy and normal (or otherwise) infant is not a 'person', strikes to the very heart of the abortion debate, and this question; 'When does a 'person' become a 'person'. Can anyone out there offer a scientifically verifiable, logical, non-emotive answer to this?

In a civil society such as we claim to have in Australia, a 'person' is entitled to the full protection of the law. Does a 'person' need to be breathing, conscious, aware? 1 year old, 1 week old, 1 day old – or less? Does a 'person' need to have all limbs and body parts (such as a beating heart) functioning?

This is not just a 'religious' or even 'moral' thing - ***until we as a 'civil' society can answer the basic question of 'When does a person become an individual who is entitled to the full protection of the law?', then maybe we shouldn't be using our limited medical facilities to kill anyone ...***

Karl V. Kuhle

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Referral

On 10 May 2016 Mr Rob Pyne MP, the Member for Cairns, introduced the *Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016* as a Private Members' Bill.

View: [Member's speech introducing the Bill into the Queensland Parliament](#)

View: [Abortion Law Reform \(Women's Right to Choose\) Amendment Bill 2016](#)

View: [Explanatory Notes to the Abortion Law Reform \(Women's Right to Choose\) Amendment Bill 2016](#)

The Bill has been referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for detailed consideration.

On 26 May 2016 the Parliament agreed that the Committee, concurrent with its consideration of the Bill, consider, report and make recommendations on aspects of the law governing termination of pregnancy in Queensland to the House on options regarding:

1. existing practices in Queensland concerning termination of pregnancy by medical practitioners;
2. existing legal principles that govern termination practices in Queensland;
3. the need to modernise and clarify the law (without altering current clinical practice), to reflect current community attitudes and expectations;
4. legislative and regulatory arrangements in other Australian jurisdictions including regulating terminations based on

gestational periods; and

5. provision of counselling and support services for women.

The Committee is required to report by **Friday 26 August 2016**.

About the Bill

The primary objective of the *Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016*, as outlined in the explanatory notes, is the removal of Abortion from the Queensland Criminal Code.

Call for submissions

The Committee invites submissions addressing any aspect of the Bill or terms of reference of the referral, from all interested parties. Guidelines for making a submission to a parliamentary committee are available here: [Guide to making a submission](#).

Only submissions that contain an individual's name, phone number and either a physical or email address will be considered by the Committee (as outlined in the guide to making submissions on the Parliament web page – see above). Submissions approved for publication will be available to view on the inquiry page under the “view submissions” tab above. Personal contact information will be removed before publication eg private email and/or physical address and phone number.

An Information Paper summarising the current law regarding abortion in Queensland and Australian jurisdictions is available [here](#) to assist submitters.

Closing date for written submissions is **Thursday 30 June 2016 by 4:00pm**.

Please note that late submissions may not be accepted by the Committee unless agreed to prior to the closing date. Submissions should be sent to:

Email: abortionlawreform@parliament.qld.gov.au

Post: Research Director
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Inquiry timeline

Submissions close on:	4:00pm Thursday 30 June 2016
Private Member's public briefing:	Wednesday 15 June 2016 - broadcast - starts at 1:02:15 (please note - broadcast only available until replaced by next Committee broadcast)
Public hearing date/s:	Venues and dates to be confirmed
Reporting due date:	Friday 26 August 2016