

From: [REDACTED]
To: [abortionlawreform](#)
Subject: Submission to Parliamentary Committee
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Attachments: [The Secret Life of the Unborn Child.doc](#)

I wish to submit the attached article to the Parliamentary Committee looking at the bill introduced into Parliament by Mr Rob Pyne, MP for Cairns.

Yours respectfully

Kathleen Cosgrove

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Email sent using Optus Webmail

THE SECRET LIFE OF THE UNBORN CHILD

I refer to the private member's bill – Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016, tabled in State Parliament on 5th May by Independent MP Mr Rob Pyne. This bill seeks to allow abortion up to the expected date of birth. Psychiatrist Dr Thomas Verny with John Kelly wrote originally in 1981 in "*The Secret Life of the Unborn Child*" of the challenging results of two decades of painstaking international research into the earliest stages of life. Dr Verny's evidence of intelligent life in the womb is overwhelming.

His research is from a scientific perspective – not to take sides in the abortion debate. He quotes from Dr Bernard Nathanson's book *Aborting America* that the unborn child meets all the criteria for life established by the Harvard Medical School. "The fact that the unborn child tests 'alive' by all four criteria raises significant questions about our current attitudes towards abortion."

Dr Verny also quotes research by Dr Michael Lieberman which showed that the unborn child grows emotionally agitated (as measured by the quickening of the heartbeat) each time the mother thinks of having a cigarette; just the idea is enough to upset him. This is due to the symbiotic connection between mother and baby. Although the foetus has no way of knowing his mother is smoking – or thinking about it – he is intellectually sophisticated enough to associate the experience with the unpleasant sensation it produces. This is caused by the drop in his oxygen supply as the mother's smoking lowers the oxygen content of the maternal blood to the placenta.

His years of research into early human development have led Dr Verny to conclude that life is not something turned on at birth, like a light switch, but a continuum which begins at conception. He has established a number of centres specialising in pre-and peri-natal psychology, focused on helping parents to prepare their baby for a happy and healthy life. However, he states with absolute certainty that at least by the end of the second trimester, if not before, (and speaking conservatively), the unborn child is a sensitive, feeling, aware and remembering human being.

American Brad Mattes hosts Life Issues, a daily radio commentary on abortion and other life issues. He also hosted Facing Life Head-On, a weekly pro-life TV program which earned three Emmy awards. On a recent Australian tour he stated "People who have never been exposed to the abortion issue need to hear that in eighteen to twenty-eight days the heart of an unborn child is beating with its own blood supply; that brain waves can be recorded; and at ten weeks toes and fingers are formed."

We expect our politicians to make decisions for or against any proposed Bill, based on facts. In view of the science published by Dr Verny, can we as a thinking, humane society condone what is suggested in Mr Rob Pyne's tabled Bill - considering the fact that abortion is by poisoning or dismemberment? I think not. Should we not be doing our utmost to support those organisations which offer alternatives and provide compassionate assistance on many levels to those women who are in the unfortunate position of an unwanted pregnancy? I think so.