

Submission to Abortion Law Reform Amendment Bill 2016 Inquiry by Parliamentary Committee.

From Mrs Anne Coyle



I have lived and worked in Cairns since 1980. I am a working mother of six children and was a qualified nurse, retired from nursing . I now work in a busy General Practice, (GP).

- The Abortion Law Reform Bill, (the Bill), currently before the committee does not best serve the health needs or desires of the majority of Queenslanders, especially women. The notes appearing on the Parliamentary website are heavily weighted in favor of abortion and do not represent the majority of medical opinion. Statements to support the deregulation of abortion are made without verification and carry a strong pro-abortion bias.
- The Current law, as interpreted by Mr Justice McGuire, works well. No doctor who, in good faith, performs an abortion to protect a mother's life or health, has anything to fear from the current law!

This is evidenced by the fact that around 14,000 abortions are performed in Queensland annually, some of them later than twenty weeks.

I refer you to the Question on Notice No.779, asked in Queensland Parliament, on 11th May this year, by Dr Robinson of Hon. C Dick, Minister of Health. This question referred to the number of live births after abortion in Queensland hospitals, at least 20 per year for the past five years.

- It is important to remember that while it is popular to promote abortion as a 'choice', the reality is that many, if not most mothers, given improved circumstances, would choose NOT to abort their pregnancy. (1) Therefore we cannot honestly claim that by removing all restrictions on abortion up to nine months, while doing nothing to provide pregnant mothers with information, support and independent counselling, we are improving women's choices!
- Mothers facing unplanned, problem or crisis pregnancies require information and counselling. Many women who have had abortions regret their decision and feel that with more information and someone to talk through their problems with they would have made a different decision and achieved a better outcome for themselves and their child. (2)
- The late Dr Bernard Nathanson, co-founder of the 'National Association of Repeal of Abortion Laws' in the United States of America in 1969, wrote 14 years later, "As one of the key architects of abortion political strategy in the United States I was responsible

for the coining of the many passwords.....such as 'freedom of choice' and 'a private matter between a woman and her doctor', which have too long passed for serious argument in this infinitely complex and incendiary issue". And "Unplanned pregnancy is a social problem and demands social solutions,.....social problems call for imaginative and humane social responses, not surgical holocausts." (3)

I respectfully urge you to recommend that this Bill be rejected.

- (1) Tankard Reist, Giving Sorrow Words, Duffy & Snelgrove, 2000
- (2) Lastman, Redeeming Grief, Victims of abortion, 2007
- (3) Nathanson, The Abortion Papers: Inside the Abortion Mentality. Fredrick Fell Publishers, Inc. 1983

Signed..........Mrs Anne Coyle