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To: abortionlawreform@parliament.qld.gov.au
Subject: Abortion Law Reform Bill

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to submit the following points for your consideration in relation to the Abortion Law Reform Bill:

1. Mr Pyne, in his speech introducing the Bill, mentions that ss224, 225 and 226 of the Criminal Code are “archaic, outdated and have no place in a modern, liberal democracy”. However, he notes that the bill does not amend or repeal s313 of the Criminal Code and he specifically states that “This rightly should remain in the Criminal Code”. However, s313, together with provisions relating to the crimes of homicide, rape, burglary etc etc, are all part of the same Criminal Code as ss224, 225 and 226, and yet no-one would suggest that these are “archaic and outdated”. The age of the provisions in the Criminal Code is therefore completely irrelevant – there are some timeless values and standards, in my opinion, that our society does, and should uphold.
2. Mr Pyne then states that the bill “will protect vulnerable women and the doctors who are risking prosecution to assist them”. He makes no mention of the vulnerable child, who is absolutely defenceless. I simply cannot believe that our society would be prepared to kill as a price it is willing to pay to protect these women and doctors. I completely understand that there are women in desperate circumstances, but I believe that they can (and indeed should) be helped by the many other means that are available to them, and we shouldn’t resort to killing an unborn child as a best alternative.
3. Mr Pyne takes the position that “when a young woman is not ready to have a child and chooses to terminate a pregnancy that should be a matter for her”. This completely overlooks the fact that this issue just not about the young woman’s body - there is also the body of an alive child that surely must also be defended?
4. He continues by suggesting that “a young person should not have to ruin their young lives by proceeding with a pregnancy *if they are not ready and their family and their doctor think it unadvisable*”. This firstly presumes that proceeding with a pregnancy will ruin a young person’s life. This simply does not have to be the case – there are many alternatives for help to be available to that young person. I would think that the fact that they have killed their unborn child would be much more likely to ruin someone’s life. Secondly, he again refers to someone being able to terminate a pregnancy for the simple reason that “they are not ready”. I find it incredible that anyone could believe that that would justify killing an unborn child.

I am empathetic with the situation that some women find themselves in and I believe that they should be given care, counselling and help. However, I do not believe that this can in any way justify killing an unborn child. An unborn child is not just a commodity to be disposed of because of

“inconvenience” or “not being ready”. Surely our society is better than that.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission.

I would request that my name, as well as contact particulars, would not be published.

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