



24 June, 2016

Submission re: Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016

There are three main points I would like the Committee to take into consideration.

1. In the Information Paper related to this Bill, one vitally important piece of law relevant to any Bill about abortion was left out.

I refer to s 313(2) of the Queensland Criminal Code. This section reads:

Criminal Code 1899 - SECT 313

313 Killing unborn child 313 Killing unborn child

(2) Any person who unlawfully assaults a female pregnant with a child and destroys the life of, or does grievous bodily harm to, or transmits a serious disease to, the child before its birth, commits a crime.

Maximum penalty—imprisonment for life.

This section makes it perfectly clear that Queensland law recognises that the entity carried by a pregnant woman, throughout the pregnancy, is a living child who can be killed.

Moreover, the penalty for killing such a child can be life imprisonment, the same penalty for murdering born human beings.

Clearly then, in this instance the life of the child is recognised and given the same value as any other human life. This is crucially important to note.

Of course, it will be claimed that this section refers to children who are wanted by their mother/parents. However, the nature and value of a child does not change or cease to exist simply because, for whatever reason, a child is not wanted by the mother/parents.

Human lives are human lives and their intrinsic status and value are not, and must never be allowed to be, dependent upon what others think of them.

As we well know there have been times when some have claimed that the lives of dark-skinned people are not worth the same respect and value as that of other human beings. We all now rightly condemn such attitudes. Human lives are human lives and their intrinsic status and value are not, and must never be allowed to be, dependent upon what others think of them.

I'm sure you would agree.

Please peruse this article, **41 Quotes From Medical Textbooks Prove Human Life Begins at Conception**, at [REDACTED]

Just two of the 41 quotes are cited here:

“Human life begins at fertilization, the process during which a male gamete or sperm (spermatozoo development) unites with a female gamete or oocyte (ovum) to form a single cell called a zygote. This highly specialized, totipotent cell marked the beginning of each of us as a unique individual.”
“A zygote is the beginning of a new human being (i.e., an embryo).”

Keith L. Moore, *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology*, 7th edition. Philadelphia, PA: Saunders, 2003. pp. 16, 2.

“Landrum B. Shettles, M.D., P.h.D. was the first scientist to succeed at in vitro fertilization:

“The zygote is human life. . . .there is one fact that no one can deny; Human beings begin at conception.”

Zygote is a term for a newly conceived life after the sperm and the egg cell meet but before the embryo begins to divide.

From Landrum B. Shettles “*Rites of Life: The Scientific Evidence for Life Before Birth*” Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1983 p 40

It is hypocritical for our society to maintain the present double standard where respect for the preborn child is recognised in one instance but then negated in the other. If this Committee gives any support to the Pyne Bill, in any form at all, it will just make the hypocrisy even more pronounced.

2. Secondly I would point out that Australia is signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 3 of the Declaration reads, “Everyone has the right to life . . .”.

The Preamble of the Declaration states: “. . . recognition of **the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family** is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.” (emphasis added)

Would anyone dare suggest that the child in the womb is *not* a human being? (Remember that preborn children killed in traffic accidents are counted in the road toll.)

People used to laugh derisively at places like the old Soviet Union for the way in which they had strong human rights documents, but when it came to the crunch, they simply ignored their principles. To our shame, when it comes to abortion, we do no better.

Similarly, Australia is signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 6 of the Convention reads: "Every child has the inherent right to life." Article 1 reads: ". . . a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years . . .". Again, would anyone dare to say that a child in the womb is not a human being?

The Preamble of the Convention states: "the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth". Please note, legal protection before birth is required.

When the children in the womb are abandoned to be killed by abortion as they are here in Queensland, then the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child are not worth the paper that they are written on. (And any suggestion that the 15 000 abortions done annually in this State are all due to the mother being in "serious danger" is clearly a gross distortion of reality.)

3. Please consider carefully each of the following comments. They are all made, not by abortion oponents, but by abortion rights supporters and by abortionists themselves.

"Let's take the issue of abortion rights, of which I am a firm supporter. . . I have always frankly admitted that abortion is murder, the extermination of the powerless by the powerful.

Liberals for the most part have shrunk from facing the ethical consequences of their embrace of abortion, *which results in the annihilation of concrete individuals and not just clumps of insensate tissue.*"

Camille Paglia, feminist, salon.com, 10 September, 2008

"One has to start with the attitude that you accept the criticism that abortion is murder . . . You're extinguishing life and if you don't face up to that you are not being honest with yourself."

Dr Robert Jones, Queen Victoria Hospital, Adelaide

"It is morally and ethically wrong to do abortions without acknowledging what it means to do them.. I performed abortions. I have had an abortion and I am in favour of women having abortions when we choose to do so.

But we should never disregard the fact that being pregnant means that there is a baby growing inside of a woman, a baby whose life is ended. We ought not to pretend this is not happening.

Judith Arcana, British abortionist

"My whole professional training was to prolong life, to nurture and protect it. Abortion is clearly at odds with that ethos."

Dr Bertram Wainer (late Victorian abortionist)

“Am I killing? Yes I am. I know that.”

Dr Curtis Boyd, abortionist

“It was when I was four months pregnant, sick as a dog, and in the middle of an argument, that I realized I could no longer tolerate the fetus-is-nothing paradigm of the pro-choice movement. I was being interrogated by a conservative, and the subject of abortion rights came up. “You’re four months pregnant,” he said. “Are you going to tell me that’s not a baby you’re carrying?”

The accepted pro-choice response at such a moment in the conversation is to evade: to move as swiftly as possible to a discussion of “privacy” and “difficult personal decisions” and “choice.” Had I not been so nauseated and so cranky and so weighed down with the physical gravity of what was going on inside me, I might not have told what is the truth for me. “Of course it’s a baby,” I snapped.”

Naomi Wolfe “Our Bodies, Our Souls: Rethinking Pro-Choice Rhetoric.”
October 16, 1995, *The New Republic*

“Any woman who has felt a baby stir inside her [and] any man who has seen the tiny heart pulsing on an ultrasound screen knows that abortion is about ending a life.”

Leslie Cannold, *The Abortion Myth: Feminism, Morality, and the Hard Choices Women Make*, 1998

“Most of the abortions in America are about convenience. People need to accept abortion for what it is: a valid part of the reproductive spectrum. I want it to be seen as normal; if 1.3 million women in this country have one every year, it’s gotta be normal. . . .

I remember feeling conflicted about the magic of being pregnant. I felt electricity running through my body. Not for a minute did I not think of it as a life. I knew it was a baby.”

Penny Lane, *Salon Magazine*, November 20, 2004

“I had my own moment of truth during my fifth month of pregnancy in May 2004. A small moment, but it changed me. I was speaking to a group from Barnard’s College Students for Choice when I referred to the object in one’s uterus when one is pregnant as a “baby.”

A nurse practitioner who was speaking after me interrupted “Fetus, you mean. You said baby, but it’s a fetus.”

“Oh, right,” I stammered, blushing. “Oops.” I felt foolish, caught in an ignorant mistake. Later, though, I realized that I had always thought of my pregnancy as carrying a baby- that was the word I wanted to use- and I was forcing myself to say “fetus” out of fear. . . . I thought of other phrases that I forced myself to use too, like “so-called partial birth abortion” and “antichoice.” These phrases suddenly struck me as legal jargon, words in the service of arguments that weren’t themselves always meaningful. Suppressing language, policing ourselves so we don’t slip up and say “baby” continues the split between our politics and our lives.

Jennifer Baumgardner, "Abortion & Life" (New York, NY: Akashic Books, 2008) p 59-60

"There are many sperm cells in the [seminal] fluid. If one of them meets an egg cell inside the mother, new life can begin to grow. ... If one of your friends is pregnant, ask her to let your child feel the baby move. ... A baby grows in a special place inside the mother, called the uterus — not in her stomach. In nine months, it is born."

Faye Wattleton, former president of Planned Parenthood (USA), the leading provider of abortions in America, *How to Talk to Your Child About Sexuality*, 1986

Again, I would point out that these comments are all made by abortion rights supporters or by abortionists. The following quote is by a former abortionist.

"I wanted to be the world's best abortionist, for the good of my patients. . . Finally I realised that abortion is not good for women. The truth is that abortion stops the beating heart of a live, growing human being. . . Nothing good can come from it. Only heartache and regret."

Dr Beverley McMillan, former abortionist

These statements must be taken seriously. Abortion always deliberately ends the life of a young human being as even abortionists and abortion supporters freely acknowledge.

As members of this Committee you are in a very important position to influence whether this Bill passes or not. In making your recommendations, please realise that it is completely irrelevant what the laws of the other States of Australia are in relation to abortion. If every State but one in the USA had allowed slavery that would not have justified the remaining State adopting the monstrous practice. Wouldn't you agree?

The only thing that needs to be considered is what abortion actually does.

If Queensland is the only State that has the integrity to value all human lives, then that is to our credit.

You have the opportunity –

to speak out against the current hypocritical abortion practice we presently have in Queensland;

to stand with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention of the Rights of the Child rather than to continue the present mockery of them;

to be a voice for the defenceless.

I would urge you to be people of principle and to resist all pressure to abandon the young human lives that are at risk of being brutally killed.

Finally, I would also point out that Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

There must be no allowance for any curtailment of peaceful freedom of speech and expression in Queensland. “Bubble zones” at abortion clinics are abuses of human rights. Just a couple of years ago the full bench of the US Supreme Court ruled 9-0 against the validity of such zones around abortion clinics in America.

It is to Australia’s great shame that they have been introduced into this country. (I would point out that I have been involved in a legal challenge to Tasmania’s 150m bubble zone law and am presently awaiting the verdict on the case. My legal team expects this will finally be decided in the High Court where it should be thrown out.)

Regards,
Graham Preston