

From: [REDACTED]
To: [abortionlawreform](#)
Subject: Abortion Law Reform - Submission
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I am presenting my beliefs regarding the proposed amendments to current legislation; as an opening statement, it is said that a human being is pronounced 'dead' when the heart stops beating so why is it not logical to pronounce a person 'alive' when the heart starts beating. This means that we are dealing with a human being not a human foetus or something less than human.

It is the old argument of a woman's right versus a child's basic right to life. It is a United Nations declaration that all human beings have a right to life, but this 'universally' held belief is relatively modern. Many older cultures have practiced infanticide by placing unwanted new-born babies out in the elements to perish, but when we in the developed world consider these cultures they look primitive and violent. Surely it is not our intention to re-build this kind of society that is considered primitive and violent.

What are current community attitudes to un-born babies? I am amazed at the amount of effort that will go into the support and nurture of a 'premi-baby' .. nothing is too much effort by the parents and medical fraternity and society avidly follows these struggles in the various media outlets. A premi-baby turns 1 year old and everyone celebrates, and so they should .. they are celebrating the effort, support and survival of one human life ... just one life is a triumph, IF THAT LIFE IS WANTED by the parent and society. How can there be a difference between fighting to save the life of a premi-baby and taking the life of a full term one ?

But pity help you, baby, if no body wants you; your life may be terminated at any stage and it will not make the news or be in the media. So this issue is not about the value of human life, but about those in the family, medical fraternity and society at large who decide whether that particular baby is wanted. Does that sound like a society that we want for Australia? Definitely not!

Yes the mother has rights, but not to decide on whether a growing human being is prevented from having theirs; this is discrimination at it's worst. You must die so that I can have a good quality of life. Does that sound reasonable ? Does this reflect current community attitudes ? – I think not. There is a silent majority that would never acquiesce to constructing this kind of society. So who will speak up for the un-born ... the mother, doctors, government or society at large ? It appears that it is left to society at large.

To return to the United Nations declaration that there is intrinsic value in every human life, let us as a nation not move further towards the 'primitive', but take every opportunity to stand up for the powerless, the disenfranchised, the under valued. I ask you to see the unborn child as a human being in it's most fragile state and say 'no' to any relaxation of current abortion legislation.

MR. PETER FLATT

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