

**From:**  
**To:** [abortionlawreform](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to Queensland Parliament on abortion law reform  
**Date:** Wednesday, 29 June 2016 12:03:54 AM

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Good Day,

I am writing to you today to express my profoundly held opinion with regard to women's reproductive rights. Specifically, women (should) **HAVE THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE A PREGNANCY**, and this right should **NOT BE INTERFERED WITH BY THE STATE**.

No matter what you or any one of us may feel personally based on religious or other "moral" convictions, what this comes down to is that pregnancy termination - abortion - is an issue of **BODILY INTEGRITY AND AUTONOMY** - and the right to bodily integrity and autonomy is a **HUMAN RIGHT**. Deciding whether or not to continue a pregnancy is a **MEDICAL** decision, to be made by a woman in consultation with her doctor. The government has **NO PLACE** interfering with this right.

When this right is violated - when there is interference from the state - a woman cannot control her health, her employment situation, her finances, or her standard of living - she **CANNOT CONTROL HER LIFE** or what happens in it. The mere ability to get pregnant means that women experience a type of **DISCRIMINATION** no man ever need be concerned about.

Pregnancy and childbirth are incredibly more dangerous to a woman than abortion, and they change her physically, forever. She will never "recover" from carrying a child to term to be 100% the way she was before. And if she is truly not ready - be that emotionally or financially or in any other way - to have a child, the impact can be absolutely devastating, for both her and the child. It can ruin lives.

It is a woman's right to be able to choose if and when to have children, how often to have children, and how many children she would like to have. This should never be controlled by any outside party either by fiat or by default. And in the age of science and reason, termination should certainly **NOT BE A CRIME**.

But that is exactly what the current law in Queensland does. Women who don't wish to have children are, technically, criminals. Additionally, the law as it exists today creates a two-tiered system of access that unfairly impacts disadvantaged women. Women of means are always able to get the health care and the "medical reasons" they seek. Not so, the situation for other women.

In recent history, the combination of case law and Criminal Code statutes has been interpreted to allow for a lawful abortion where a woman's life or health is at risk of serious harm. This means that rape, incest and fetal anomaly, for example, are not grounds in or of themselves for a lawful abortion - only their impact on a woman's health is able to be taken into account. This type of narrow reading of a woman's rights is of course illogical, but in reality it is also outrageous.

Several decades ago, my own mother had to carry a genetically defective "baby" to term because it was "too late" to terminate according to the laws in place at that time. My mother told me that everyone knew the "child" would not survive - and indeed, it lived only a few hours after delivery, being on this earth just long enough to be named "Baby Girl" - but the law forced my mother to go through the trauma of months of pregnancy and the delivery of a "baby" that would never live.

That is absolutely horrific, by anyone's standards.

Do we really want to see our mothers, our sisters, our wives, and our daughters continue to go through these hellish scenarios? Do we really want to see them continue to be without the control over their lives that men have and exercise every day without question?

Do we really want to see women made into criminals by merely attempting to take the control they should have, by right, over their lives and their bodies?

Do we really want to continue to limit and restrict and bind and **HARM WOMEN**, who are whole, living, breathing, conscious human beings and functioning members of society, for the collection of cells that a few fundamentally religious people would hold up as their equals???

Doing so is simply not **RIGHT**. It violates **HUMAN RIGHTS**.

THE LAW MUST BE CHANGED.

Sincerely,  
Kaiya J. Diannen

[REDACTED]

Currently in the electoral roll: Yeerongpilly  
Moving to: Moorooka