



**GOLD COAST CENTRE**  
against sexual violence inc.

ABN 50621908411

Research Director Health, Communities,  
Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

29 June 2016

**Re: *Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016.***

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this dialogue.

I write as Director of the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence, an organisation who works with victim/survivors of rape, and as a social justice advocate and strong supporter of women's rights to self-determination.

Abortion has remained in Queensland's Criminal Code, in statutes dating from 1899 which allow for the prosecution of women accessing abortion or doctors providing it. This legislation causes fear and uncertainty and I believe women should have the right to make decisions about their own bodies and reproductive lives without fear of criminalization.

Queensland women need access to legal and safe abortion; reliable, safe and affordable contraception; and a full range of information and support in order to make an informed decision about terminating or maintaining a pregnancy.

I urge the Queensland government to respect the reproductive rights of women and to decriminalize abortion by removing sections 224, 225 & 226 from the Queensland Criminal Code.

Di Macleod  
**Director**