



THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND INC.  
Established 1905

Submission No. 780  
Received 29 June 2016

Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC,  
Governor of Queensland

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Secretary: Mrs Avril Kent

29<sup>th</sup> June, 2016

Inquiry Secretary  
HCDSDFVP Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE 4000

Dear Sirs,

**Abortion Law Reform Amendment Bill 2016 and Inquiry into laws governing termination of pregnancy in Queensland**

The National Council of Women of QLD (Inc.) (NCWQ) is affiliated with National Council of Women of Australia Inc. Ltd and the International Council of Women. Our patron is His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland.

The NCWQ seeks to work for the empowerment of women and families and to promote equal status for women in law and fact and to develop policies and responses on behalf of women on a state wide basis. It is on this basis that the NCWQ provides a submission to the Parliamentary Committee inquiry into the laws governing termination of pregnancy in Queensland and the Abortion Law Reform Amendment Bill 2016.

**The NCWQ supports Abortion Law Reform Amendment Bill 2016 and its intention to remove Sections 224-226 from the Criminal Code Act 1899 (Qld) and recommends that it be passed by the Parliament.**

Based on the legislation and regulations governing terminations in other States, the NCWQ recommends that those laws be taken into consideration to provide consistency in the laws across State borders to enable a woman to have a termination regardless of which State she may live in and not have to travel to another State where abortion is legal.

In the light of this view, The NCWQ supports and agrees that the termination of a pregnancy is primarily the choice of the woman and that the Queensland Parliament adopts the regulations governing terminations based on the regulations adopted by the government of Victoria who deleted similar sections from its Criminal Code that were basically the same as the sections in Queensland's Criminal Code. Therefore, NCWQ recommends that the following regulations be adopted:-

1. That a medical practitioner may perform an abortion on a woman who is not more than 24 weeks pregnant
2. That after 24 weeks, a termination may only be performed if her medical practitioner believes, in consultation with another medical practitioner, that it is appropriate for the physical and mental health of the woman.
3. That the woman has sought counselling on the basis that the decision to have a termination is not taken lightly and that the impacts, both long term and short term, of having a termination are taken into account.
4. That terminations be carried only in licensed health clinics and that women are referred to the licensed clinics by their medical practitioner.
5. That medical practitioners/health providers have the right to conscientious objection to performing terminations.

NCWQ recommend that counselling and other support services continue to be provided to the woman following the termination to ensure her health needs continue to be met.

For further information please contact the National Council of Women Qld at the signatory details below.

Yours sincerely,

Lyn Buckley  
Acting President  
National Council of Women Qld