



**Subject:**



[SPAM ?] Right to Life Australia Submission

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Low



## The Right to Life Australia Inc

30 June 2016

Research Director

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence  
Prevention Committee

Parliament House

Brisbane QUEENSLAND 4000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Attached is our submission to your Committee.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Katrina Haller, B.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc., Ph.D., LLB.

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## ABORTION LAW REFORM

The Right to Life Australia supports the right to life of everyone, especially the most vulnerable members of our human family.

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, article 3 states, “Everyone has the right to life.”

The International Convention on the Rights of the Child, 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.”

Abortion violates the right to life of preborn children.

There is no recognised International “right to abortion” or so-called “right to Choose.” No one has the right to choose to kill another. This smokescreen was coined by Dr. Bernard Nathanson and his abortionist friends, to gain support for their profitable practice.

### 1. Existing practices

Late term aborted babies are born alive and left to die – this is a cruel way to die from exposure and starvation. The medical staff, particularly nurses, witness this and some are upset by listening to the cries of the preborn child while they die. This is a violent and barbaric act. It is actually infanticide. Babies of the same gestation who are “wanted” by their biological mothers are in humidicribs being cared for. No baby is unwanted – many couples want to adopt. Abortion is the ultimate in family violence. It pits mother against her child, and enables the mother to kill her preborn child.

There is some protection if social abortion, or abortion on demand, is not legal. The irony about abortions for “psychological reasons” is that after the abortion the psychological problems can worsen. Why not deal with the problem, instead of killing the baby? If the mother is homeless, refer her to an Accommodation Support Service, if she is in a domestic violence situation, refer her to counselling. The women who have abortions have low self-esteem and after their abortion their self-esteem decreases further. The abortion does not solve their problem, it is a refusal to help her and a failure to seek a solution to her problem.

Abortions done because the baby has a disability or suspected disability is the most blatant form of discrimination against those who have a disability. How inappropriate it would be for a Disability Service to promote abortion for those who have a disability.

### 2. Legal principles

Human Rights Law provides that everyone, including the preborn child, has the right to life. Everyone, no matter how small, what their level of development, whether or not they have a disability, and their place of residence (the womb) has the right to life. We do not allow big people to kill small people, we do not allow more developed people to kill less developed people (e.g. 14 year olds to kill 4 year olds), we don't kill people depending on their place of residence, we don't kill people with a disability. Abortions discriminate against those who are small, at an early stage of development, live in the womb, and who have a disability.

There is no recognised International "right" to abortion, or euphemistically called "right to choose" as it clashes with the long established Right to Life of everyone.

Abortion for a disability entrenches discrimination against those with a disability. It confirms a view that they have less value and can be disposed of. Rather than the attitude that we should celebrate them for who they are, accept them, and provide assistance to them. Their current slogan "Disability – anyone, anytime" shows us that anyone of us can become disabled at any time, and we are not suddenly made worthless because of that. Disability should not become a death sentence.

### 3. Modernise and clarify the law

Modern ultrasound technology demonstrates to us the humanity of the preborn child – the baby can be seen moving around in the first trimester, and the baby's heartbeat, approximately twice that of the mother, can be heard. Women have a right to know, but abortionists are careful to shield them from the truth. The law should be modernised to take into account the demonstrated humanity and preciousness of the preborn baby, and protect him or her, instead of introducing a violent act to end their lives, for the convenience of a mother. If you want to prevent family violence, you must prevent abortion, as it is the ultimate in family violence. It says that you can use violence to get what you want. Men do not have the "right to choose" to kill women. Women do not have the "right to choose" to kill men. Parents do not have the "right to choose" to kill their children. No one has the "right to choose" to kill another. Rightly so.

### 4. Other jurisdictions

Abortion law is hugely variable, however now in a first world country like Australia, the mother can be cared for and the pregnancy monitored until the right time for the baby to be induced and cared for early, if the mother's medical condition requires it. There is no need for abortion to be legalised to save a mother's life. The baby may or may not survive, but is given the best chance. Every baby born alive should be cared for, and if not wanted by her biological mother, this

baby could be adopted.

**5. Counselling and support services**

Women with problems need to be referred to counselling and support services. When they are pregnant and at their most vulnerable, they are sometimes abandoned by those they expected to care for them – the father of the child, their family, their employer. They are realising that their relationship was merely exploitative. No mother should be coerced into abortion because it suits everyone else. This breaks the bond between mother and baby. What a terrible price to pay for being able to survive in society. Women should be able to study, work and have children, not have to choose between these activities. We need a more contemporary attitude to work and family, which includes pregnant women. Women deserve better than abortion.

**Conclusion:** The Law should be strengthened to protect the lives of preborn children, and genuinely help their mothers.