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

To the Parliamentary Committee

Please accept this submission, author Belinda Lindel, my personal and professional comments as a Social Worker of 15 years.

I am in favour of decriminalising the Abortion Law, removing section 224, 225 and 226 from the Criminal Code – yes, I believe there should be guidelines around health care and the provision of this – however making the procurement of an abortion, an illegal activity is denying the human rights of a woman to have a choice regarding her own physical and mental health.

Living in a regional area, there are many barriers to women accessing abortion, and in Rockhampton we only have a fly in and fly out practitioner once a week. The cost starts at \$700 and then escalates. I don't believe that anyone has the right to carry judgement on a woman's circumstances regarding accessing an abortion - let alone it be in legislation.

Judgement and arguments for pro-life is fair and people are entitled to their own beliefs, however people do not have knowledge or history as to why a client is seeking an abortion. There are several horrific circumstances that I know of:

- if the woman has been violently sexually assaulted (in or out of a relationship) and the pregnancy is a result of this traumatic act.
- Incestuous rape from a family member
- Unplanned pregnancy with a young adolescent female
- Inter-partner sexual violence without condom/birth control with the goal of pregnancy so he can keep control of the woman

The client should have a choice, on her own body, on her own future and what this could mean.

The Qld Abortion Law IS ARCHIAC – and needs to come into the NOW !

Our Community is ready and wanting reform

Yours sincerely

Belinda Lindel