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Health, Communities, Disability Services
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By email - abortionlawreform@parliament.qld.gov.au

To whom it may concern

I write in **support of the decriminalisation of abortion in Queensland** and in support of the inquiry into aspects of the law governing termination of pregnancy in Queensland. I support a woman's right to have control over her own body so I support reform to decriminalise abortion in Queensland.

Queensland abortion law is archaic. It's 2016, not 1899 (which is when these laws were introduced), and so I think we need to change these old laws in Queensland. **Queensland and New South Wales are the only jurisdictions in Australia where women can be charged for having an abortion.**

As a woman from a regional community, I am concerned that women in rural and regional areas of the state often face long travel distances and additional costs for accommodation on top of higher procedural costs, as well as having to take time off work and arrange for care of children or family members. It's not uncommon for a first trimester surgical abortion to cost a woman from rural or regional Queensland in excess of \$2000 with all these things taken into account.

While the prevention of all unplanned pregnancies is desirable, it is unrealistic to expect that all sexually active women will never experience an unplanned pregnancy. No contraception is 100% effective and contraception can fail even when used correctly and consistently. The World Health Organisation estimates that even if all contraceptive users used contraception perfectly in every sexual encounter, there would still be six million unintended pregnancies every year.

Studies of Australian and New Zealand women seeking abortion have shown that over half of women presenting for abortion had been using contraception prior to becoming pregnant.

The reality is that we are all human beings and make mistakes or errors of judgment. No contraception is 100% effective and contraception can fail when not used accurately, when used with other prescribed medications, or if not used consistently.

I also support measures to empower women to make educated and informed choices with respect of contraception and sexual health.

Yours sincerely

Brittany Lauga MP
Member for Keppel