

Thursday 30 June 2016

Regarding the **Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016 and Inquiry into laws governing termination of pregnancy in Queensland**

The Cairns Christian Ministers Network is representing its members with the submission below on their behalf.

Christian leaders in Cairns opposed to this bill:

Dave Drage – Power Community Church  
Trevor Saggars – The Good Shepherd Anglican Church  
Brenden Giles – C3 Church  
Daniel Matteo – Seventh Day Adventist Church  
Stewart Moncrieff – Freshwater Church  
Vanessa Ballard – Freshwater Church  
Harry Leesment – Royals Church  
Wayne Kuypers – Cairns Community Church  
David Wright – Cairns Family Church  
Adem Xhafer – Royals Church  
Jason Harris – Crosspoint Church  
Rachel Macri – Faith Outreach Church  
Melissa Haigh – Cairns Marketplace Church  
Adam Kitcatt – Calvary Church  
Geoff Snook – The Lakes Church

Firstly we acknowledge and recognise the importance of life, both that of the mother and the child.

Secondly we acknowledge and affirm the need from time to time to bring our laws up to current times. In this we welcome the invitation for the community to voice their thoughts.

Below, in point form, are the issues and questions we believe need more consideration:

1. From all that we have read and seen the right of the mother is already covered in the current legislation. To change this, however, greatly affects the life of the unborn child. The child has no voice and therefore is unable to speak on its behalf.
2. Currently across all the states there is no consistent standard by which we acknowledge where life begins. This raises 2 further issues:
  - a. The need for a national standard
  - b. The need to identify through both medical and ethical standards when life begins
3. Further to the above point, it has been acknowledged medically that life is in existence even prior to 12 weeks gestation. Therefore it is imperative that there are laws in place to protect unborn children. Doctors intervene to save lives from around 22 weeks onwards, and this again raises questions as to when life is recognised by law. Additionally, a Federal Law identifying where life begins would not only protect unborn children, but also mean this is not decided entirely by individuals.



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As it stands now the proposed bill removes boundaries of protection for the unborn child and further discussion about the above points needs to happen.

We understand that this is a complex issue involving the rights of all concerned and we would seek to have laws that empower all people, both born and unborn to have the fullest opportunity to life.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our thoughts and concerns

Yours sincerely,

Phil Bignill

On Behalf of Cairns Christian Ministers Network