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Health Communities Disability Services
Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane 4000.

To the Committee formed for the Abortion Law Reform Bill

I am writing to you as a long-term advocate for women's rights. Since the 1980's I have sheltered women fleeing domestic violence in our home, as well as women coming out of gaol, young women fleeing homes where they were in danger of sexual assault, homeless women, single mothers and their children, and mentally ill women needing supported accomodation. In 1990 I became pregnant and in the course of my pregnancy I became aware for the first time that my unborn child was not "me". She had her own biorhythms, sleeping when I was walking around, and moving around when I was trying to sleep, her own blood type, she could have been a boy. It was this realization that she was an individual in her own right, that led me to accept her own human rights and I joined the pro-life movement.

I was also heavily involved in the peace movement and our family still is, so this put me at odds with many of my friends. But we also discovered other like-minded people in Feminist for Life, Prolifers for Survival, and Consistent Life groups. I still have many friends who are post-abortive.

I also had many friends who had had abortions, and the repercussions on that event in their lives was obvious and ongoing in all they told me. Some had become infertile, some mentally ill, some couldn't ever face having another pregnancy and had themselves sterilized, some did have another abortion, one had 6 abortions before choosing to have a baby live till birth (but she never had another abortion after that).

I could go on, but the main point I want to make is that abortion is an act of violence against a woman's own child, and an attack on her psyche as well. It is the ultimate violence against someone small, vulnerable, and voiceless, inside a woman's own body. This is not respecting the dignity of women. It is an attack on their feminine integrity and at odds with true feminism, which has always advocated for those who are vulnerable. Decriminalisation will end the humanity of the unborn child, changing it to something that is conferred upon them, if they are "wanted".

I have collected five women's stories on the enclosed dvd who were part of a large group gathered to oppose the decriminalisation of abortion. They all have their own perspectives on this issue. Thank-you for your attendance to our concerns.