

SUBMISSION CONCERNING THE ABORTIONS BILL TABLED BY ROB PYNE

Firstly there are many myths concerning the issue of abortion. The mantra we hear over and over again is "I'm pro-choice". What does this actually mean? The mother does have a choice to abort her baby but what about the baby's choice. One choice is chosen at the expense of the other. The result is death of her the mother's baby. To choose to legalize killing him is to deny his defenders the choice to protect him by law. So which choice is right. Is there a moral choice involved here?

It's a bit like the slave trade in the 1850's. It wasn't discussed if slavery is wrong but whether a slave holder has a right to choose the issue himself.

This bill which is being tabled will be discussed by a committee. Rob Pyne wants to legalise abortion in Queensland up to nine months in the womb. This is barbaric and totally abhorrent and unacceptable, not just to myself, but to the general public throughout Australia and of course in Queensland. A galaxy poll showed 85% of Queensland's population voted for abortion up to 3 months gestation only. They also supported education concerning an abortion so a young girl can make an informed choice and also to provide practical and emotional support for all women right up to the birth of their baby. I, myself, belong to a pro-life organisation which offers this practical help to women facing an unplanned pregnancy. The organisation is called "**Pregnancy Crisis incorporated**" of PCI. **It also provides a safe house for the women.**

There are many pro-life organisations out there which are helping these desperate young ladies. Often the girls say they were told they only had one choice – the abortion choice – and when someone comes along and suggests there is another way they often change their minds especially when there's support, encouragement and friendship along the way right up to the day of birth and afterwards. Some of these same girls join the pro-life movement and become often their strongest advocates.

The public thinking is that it is just young single girls who present themselves at the abortion clinic. It is also the married ladies. It has been found that the third pregnancy is when the baby is most at risk of being terminated mainly for financial reasons. The wife needs to keep working to pay the bills etc.

So there are economic reasons. This is another area for the Queensland government to look into. The financial stress put on families is enormous. Often the husband is unable to find work so the wife is helping to provide for the family until the husband finds full-time employment.

There are 10,000 abortions performed in Queensland each year and this is when abortion is illegal. How many more will there be if it's legalised. Young women have no excuse not to have an abortion if it is legalised in Qld as their friends will say "It's legal, so it's alright to abort". At least if she was unsure she could say, "Well it's not legal anyway here in Queensland.

WHAT'S IT LIKE IN AMERICA

In some states in America it is mandatory to inform the patient of all the risks related to an abortion procedure before they proceed with the abortion. Abortion is a surgical procedure and like any surgical procedure the patient is informed of the various risks associated with it. The health risks associated with abortions are very serious. Women have suffered with a perforated uterus, haemorrhaging, and infertility. Also with repeated abortions it has been found when the mother wants to have a baby the babies are often premature because of the damage done to the uterus. Now, as well, it has been found without a doubt that abortion with a first pregnancy will cause breast cancer.

They then have a 3 day cooling off period before they decide whether to proceed or not.

Also a mandatory scan is also required so the mother to be can see her child in her womb.

These various changes in the law are very helpful for the mother to help her make an informed decision. A majority of women decide not to have the abortion. In fact the figure is around 80% of women who decide to carry their baby to birth.

In the last ten years or so they are now finding out how men are affected by the girlfriend's or partner/wife's decision to abort their baby. They find the men can not stop the women as they say it's their choice but it's also the father of the baby that should have the choice to keep the baby. Men have very strong instincts and the two which are the strongest are to **Protect and Provide** for their babies and wives/partners. This has been taken away from them with the pro-choice stand "Men don't understand; it's my body," but it's his baby as well. Men, in America are suffering. They anguish over the fact that they can't protect their baby. Some have committed suicide.

Women, of course, suffer greatly after an abortion. They're angry that they're not told of the depression, guilt and grief they will suffer for years afterwards. They want to hold their baby they realised they've killed. There are many counselling centres set up now to address these needs.

WHY NOT ADOPTION

Many women are not able to bear children because of infertility problems but there aren't any babies to adopt because of the abortion epidemic. They have to resort to adoptive agencies overseas where the waiting period for babies is sometimes two to three years. It's heartbreaking. This should be suggested and encouraged to those in crisis pregnancies, that there is another option and i.e. adoption.

To summarise, abortion is not the answer, to a woman in a crisis pregnancy situation. What a girl needs is love and support to carry her baby to birth and afterwards. There are so many issues, a major one is the family breakdown where these young girls have no-one to turn to in their desperation. They immediately think of all the negative problems associated with an unplanned pregnancy and without any family support or the partner or boyfriend they take what they think is the easy option. The abortion clinic's staff say to the girl, "it's

just a bunch of cells, there's nothing there. It's a quick procedure. It'll all be over very soon and you can go back home and lead a normal life with no problems". I know this is the case as I've heard many testimonies from young girls who've had abortions.

So legalising it is not solving the girl's problems. They will have more problems than they ever imagined.

Please do not change the current abortion laws in Queensland. Leave it as it is!

Kind regards

(Mrs) Gail Osmak