

**From:**  
**To:** [abortionlawreform](#)  
**Subject:** Abortion Law Reform  
**Date:** Wednesday, 29 June 2016 12:09:19 AM

---

Dear Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee,

Thank you for considering my submission about this proposed Bill.

One thing that Mr McARDLE and Mrs SMITH rightly raised in the public briefing of 15 JUNE 2016 is that in preparation of this Bill, no consideration has been given to the unborn. I think the important question is "What is the unborn?". If the unborn is a member of the human family, it would be morally wrong to kill him or her to benefit another person. But if the unborn is not human, then it requires no more justification than having a tooth pulled. So therefore, why would Mr PYNE care whether abortions are done short or late term?

Mr PYNE says "[As we know, providing cheap and affordable safe access to abortion would mean fewer late-term abortions, not more.](#)" But why does that matter at all if the unborn is merely a useless piece of tissue? Just like if a tooth is pulled today or in 8 and 3/4 months time, what difference does it make? Clearly, he recognises that the unborn are more than merely a useless piece of tissue.

### **The Science**

Mr PYNE says that he looks to the science of the issue. But unfortunately it appears he has not. Dr. Maureen Condic, the Assistant Professor of Neurobiology and Anatomy at the University of Utah points out that embryos are living human beings "[precisely because they possess the single defining feature of human life that is lost in the moment of death - the ability to function as a coordinated organism rather than merely as a group of living cells. The critical difference between a collection of cells and a living organism is the ability of an organism to act in a coordinated manner for the continued health and maintenance of the body as a whole. It is precisely this ability that breaks down at the moment of death, however death might occur. Dead bodies may have plenty of live cells, but their cells no longer function together in a coordinated manner.](#)"

Dr. Condic goes on to say "[Embryos are not merely collections of human cells, but living creatures with all the properties that define any organism as distinct from a group of cells; embryos are capable of growing, maturing, maintaining a physiologic balance between various organ systems, adapting to changing circumstances, and repairing injury. Mere groups of human cells do nothing like this under any circumstances.](#)"

But someone might argue that the embryos are very small in size. Does that matter? Would we say that large people are more valuable than small ones? Size doesn't equal value.

Mr PYNE may argue that foetuses are less developed than you and I. Does that mean an adult should have more of a right to life than a six week infant?

But what about the foetuses' location compared to you and I? One's location does not mean that he has less of a right to life. Whether you live in Mackay or Brisbane doesn't affect your right to

life. And travelling a number of centimetres down the birth canal does not change the nature of the unborn from a bunch of useless tissue to a valuable human being.

What about the fact that the foetus is dependent on its mother? That too doesn't change anything. During the public briefing of 15 JUNE 2016, Mr PYNE mentioned about a foetus' viability. If viability bestows human value, does that mean that all those who depend on insulin or kidney medication are not valuable and thus we may kill them?

### **The Bill's Subtitle**

I notice that the Bill's subtitle is "Woman's Right to Choose". Does that mean there is nothing wrong with a pregnant woman binge drinking or smoking, or harming the foetus within her to the point that she ensures the child is born with injuries or disabilities? If a woman has a right to choose absolutely, then surely there cannot be anything wrong with that.

### **Conclusion**

Therefore, this proposed Bill should be completely dismissed. To remove the criminal offence of abortion from the Criminal Code would be to allow the murder of an unborn baby. Alternatively, a different Bill should be proposed to remove any exceptions to the current abortion prohibition.

Regards,

Ryan Hemelaar