

## **Submission to the inquiry into Qld Abortion Law Reform**

As a minister of religion for the past 28 years with extensive experience in parish ministry and in lecturing for many years at a Theological College I write to express to you my grave concerns over the proposed new legislation concerning abortion in Queensland.

There are a great many people within my constituency who have expressed to me their extreme concern over any changes to legislation in regard to abortion.

While abortion is technically illegal in the State of Queensland, I understand that there are still around 10,000 abortions conducted annually, on the premise that the mother's well-being is under serious threat should her pregnancy be allowed to continue. The proposed new legalisation represents a dramatic overhaul of the status quo, providing for free abortion, up to birth, for any reason.

This approach denies the inherent sanctity of life which most of my constituency would believe starts at the moment of conception. While proponents of "abortion on demand" suggest that their concern is for the rights of the woman who is carrying the unborn, our concern is equally for the rights of the unborn. In a supposedly egalitarian society it seems unconscionable that we would be privileging the supposed "rights" of one person over the "life" of another.

While I do not stand in condemnation or judgment of those who have felt that, for circumstances beyond their personal control, they have been forced to make the heart-rending decision to terminate the life of their unborn child, I do not except that free and open abortion up to full term is in any way an adequate solution for any society.

I therefore respectfully urge the Queensland Parliament to reject in total the proposed bill as set forth by Mr Rob Pine MP.

Rev Dr Peter Francis