From:

To: <u>abortionlawreform</u>
Subject: Abortion law reforms

**Date:** Wednesday, 29 June 2016 6:54:03 PM

In 2013 we had a scan for our second baby and received the devastating news that the baby had a series of severe problems and would not have much quality of life. It was the worst day of our lives for my husband and I. After a lot of research and advice from specialists we made the heartbreaking decision to end the pregnancy. As difficult as this decision was, to end the pregnancy was difficult in Queensland and we ended up leaving our eldest child with her grandparents and flying to Melbourne so that we could access a surgical abortion. This cost us about \$6,000. My husband's grandmother helped us with some money towards this. Having to go to Victoria made an awful situation a lot worse.

We were very fortunate to have family to step in to assist us with child minding and money, when a lot of people wouldn't have this. We were also very fortunate to access some wonderful grief counseling provided by the mater hospital. It was the worst thing I have ever been through and I wouldn't wish it upon anyone, even those who oppose abortion.

I don't know what the point of having fetal scans are if there is not an option to end the pregnancy if the fetus is not viable. I also do not think women should be forced to continue with a pregnancy against their wishes.

I hope that abortion is removed from the criminal code.

Janette Hull and James Colwill