

From:
To: [abortionlawreform](#)
Subject: Submission for Inquiry into Abortion Law Reform
Date: Wednesday, 29 June 2016 10:42:20 PM

Damian and Marie-Claire Trebilco

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed changes to the Abortion Laws in Queensland.

After reviewing the arguments put forth in the supplied documents, there are a number of points I would like to address:

- Firstly, there seems to be much made of the fact that these are very old laws from the 19th century. This smacks of "Chronological Snobbery" where we imagine ourselves much smarter than our forebears.
- There also exists in the arguments a lot of appeals to emotion - as if abortion or raising a child are the only options. The fact that no one has been successfully convicted under the existing laws in many decades indicates that they are not draconian laws.
- I am also concerned that the proposed inquiry has no provided guidelines on any limits to abortion. While this can be debated at a later date, it should be foremost so that there is no ambiguity in what is being discussed.
- If these changes proceed, it would appear with section 313 (Killing unborn child) of the criminal code still in effect, would indicate that the personhood of the unborn child is not intrinsic, but can be decided by third parties.
- With recent developments in Queensland where children were born alive after abortion and were left to die, it seems we need strengthening of laws in this area - or at least enforcement of existing laws.

Finally, it was stated that the purpose of these law reforms is to "empower women to make decisions about their own bodies". I would like to remind the inquiry that this is not solely about women's bodies, but also the bodies of their unborn children.

Yours faithfully,
Damian and Marie-Claire Trebilco