

**From:**  
**To:** [abortionlawreform](#)  
**Subject:** Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016  
**Date:** Wednesday, 29 June 2016 11:57:07 PM  
**Importance:** High

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David and Alex Todd

Research Director  
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention  
Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Re: *Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016*

Dear Committee members,

We do not believe the current legislation relevant to the termination of a pregnancy in Qld is in need of any amendments. With the information available via ultrasound and other means it is clear that terminating a pregnancy ends a human life, and there should never be legislation that makes this process 'easier'.

Abortion ends the life of the smallest, most vulnerable members of our community, and has a lasting (and most often negative) effect on the mother of that child. There are so many reasons to oppose abortion... it is hard to believe that the Qld government is even considering this bill.

97% of abortions in Australia are for social or lifestyle reasons, often the threat to 'mental health' is the argument, sadly the statistics all indicate that mental health issues are the result of abortion, and are not prevented by ending a pregnancy.

“Perhaps the most extensive review of the effects of abortion on women is Dr Priscilla Coleman’s meta analysis of 22 international studies conducted from 1995-2009.<sup>1</sup>

The study, published in 2011 in the British Journal of Psychiatry shows that women who had undergone an abortion experienced an 81 per cent

increased risk of mental health problems, and that nearly 10 per cent of all mental health problems in women were shown to be directly attributable to abortion.

She found that abortion was linked with a 34 per cent greater chance of anxiety disorders, and 37 per cent higher possibility of depression, a more than double risk of alcohol abuse, a three times greater risk of cannabis use and 155 per cent greater risk of trying to commit suicide.

*“Not only is there evidence for an association between abortion and poor mental health, but studies have further indicated that abortion is related to an increased likelihood of sexual dysfunction, communication problems, and separation or divorce,”* Dr Coleman said.

Even Marie Stopes, Australia's largest abortion provider, acknowledges the emotional risks of having an abortion.<sup>2</sup>

*“For many women, making the decision to seek help regarding abortion is relatively straightforward. However, for others abortion is an issue that is fraught with complexities and the decision to undergo the procedure causes much anxiety.*

*“While most women feel relief following an abortion and are able to move forward, some may feel a sense of loss or sadness and can experience the following:*

- *numbness and emptiness*
- *false euphoria*
- *the need to keep excessively busy*
- *general depression*
- *sudden bouts of crying*
- *anger and/or guilt*
- *sexual or relationship difficulties”*

<http://notbornyet.com/hurt-by-abortion/>

Many personal stories are available here: <http://iregretmyabortion.org.au/stories/>

There is already enough pressure on women to have ‘perfect’ babies and perfect lives... please do not increase that pressure.

<http://melindatankardreist.com/products-page/books/defiant-birth/>

Perhaps the most obvious flaw in the bill is in the sub heading: (Women’s Right to Choose).

But which woman? More than 50% of the pregnancies terminated are very very young women. It should be illegal to take their lives before they have that choice!

In March I (Alex) wrote to Shannon Fentiman MP and have not received a response (to date) I was writing in response to her confirming her position as pro-choice and an advocate for ‘womens reproductive rights’. Please find the letter below (please note this letter has already been shared in a public forum, as part of a comment thread on facebook) the questions I ask are relevant to the committee as you consider this bill.

With kind regards, for the difficult job you do,  
David and Alex Todd.

Mrs Alex Todd

3 March 2016

**Shannon Fentiman MP**

Minister for Communities, Women and Youth  
Minister for Child Safety  
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence  
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Your reference: 2015-04717

Dear Shannon,

Thank you so much for the letter explaining your position on abortion. If it is ok to continue the conversation, I have a few questions that I hope you might consider.

As the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, the Minister for Child Safety and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence I am assuming you see a lot of horrific and devastating figures.

To truly address those statistics and the issues they represent we need to look at what the common denominators are. The common denominator is FAMILY. And at the very core of family is a man/woman relationship and reproduction. (There is another conversation to be had regarding same sex and single adults reproducing with the aid of medical technology or other people, but not today).

**How we treat our children, at every age, is the key.** If we didn't need to address this you would have a MUCH smaller portfolio.

Do you consider it appropriate for adults to pick and choose when they care for their children? Or is it expected that once you are a parent that you have a responsibility 24/7 to protect and care for those children, regardless of how you feel? Similarly, is it your view that adults should show respect and care for those around them? All the time? Or only when they choose to do that?

I would suggest that the only difference between the care of a child that is born and one that is

unborn is the car seat/pram! There is no question that a new life is formed at conception. A new life with new DNA, 50% of unborn babies are a different gender to their mums, and they often have a different blood type, within 21 days of conception a new heart is beating, and after only 12 weeks (into the 40 week period of growth in utero), each little person has all their limbs, digits and organs and just needs to grow larger.

**The government should NOT need to worry about protecting children in those first 40 weeks of life.** Sadly in Australia (and in Qld) the most dangerous place for a baby is to be in his or her mother's womb. It astounds me that the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth / Minister for Child Safety can be using euphemisms and 'politically correct' language when discussing the death of 15,000 Qld children (each year). Little girls that will never experience any choice, and have no rights, that will never have a chance to be part of a 'quota' in the parliament, or achieve any position by merit. Since you were sworn in more than 7,500 little girls in Qld have been denied 'real choice'.

Please do not assume that I am only advocating for the children, 100% of the women I know who have had an abortion regret it. They are still suffering the consequences, some physical, some emotional and some in ways that no one ever talks about. (We are not allowed to discuss the reality of abortion and its effect on women, our culture only allows us to grieve the loss of 'wanted' children).

Regarding Domestic and Family Violence all the statistics point to **an increase** in violence following the legalisation of abortion across the western world. This is only logical, because if people are allowed (and government funding subsidises) the violent removal of an unborn baby from its mother's womb, with the intention to kill the child, then why would we need to care appropriately for the children who are born?

This is not a conversation that can be had using euphemisms and in-offensive language... it is about the brutal killing of the smallest of our children, and the physical and emotional scarring of women. All in the name of 'sexual rights'. Rights come with responsibilities. For many the 'choice' is made long before a small child is part of the equation. (Please don't be distracted by the rape argument – 97% of abortions are purely lifestyle or economic 'choices').

**You are being paid to serve the people of Qld and you have a huge responsibility to the families, communities, women, children and men of Qld in your role as the Minister overseeing these areas.** Please carefully look at the figures, and ask your conscience, what is right? I realise that you are a member of EMILY's List and have certain obligations to that organisation – but please don't let that blind you to the truth.

If you haven't already, I challenge you to have a look at the development of the tiniest humans, there are lots of great websites and video footage even!

Something that I assume would fit into your portfolio would be adoption. This is something that needs to be addressed in Qld, what is your position on adoption? And on foster/adopt possibilities?

I appreciate your response to my original correspondence and will look forward to your reply, Thank you for serving the people of Qld as an MP.

Kind Regards,

**Alex**

Mrs Alex Todd