

From:
To: [abortionlawreform](#)
Subject: Abortion Law Reform submission
Date: Thursday, 30 June 2016 12:06:17 PM

To the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

I write in support of the Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016. Abortion should be removed from the criminal code in Queensland. Abortion should not be considered a crime. It should be covered by legislation covering any kind of surgical or medical treatment. Abortion should be provided in the public system, giving access to all women, not just women who can afford it. The ability to terminate an unwanted pregnancy is a fundamental human right. Women should have total control over what happens to their bodies. I work for a sexual assault service, and know only too well that many women do not always have control over what happens to their bodies. When women have experienced rape, or coerced sex, they can have many traumatic feelings to deal with. Being forced to deal with an unwanted pregnancy can exacerbate the trauma felt, and further complicate the healing process. Women who live with drug addictions, mental health problems, violence, and/or poverty, should have the choice of publicly funded pregnancy termination.

I think it is very unfair that women with money, or who live near coastal, metropolitan areas are able to access abortions, but women in rural or remote areas of Queensland, and vulnerable women of little means, cannot.

I think on the issue of gestational limits: any restrictions made should be based on medical science and evidence, and not be influenced by religious ideas. I have known of two Queensland women who had wanted pregnancies, and when they decided to choose "late term abortions" due to foetal abnormalities, they both had to go interstate, away from their families and support networks, to get the medical care they required. I think it is outrageous that our state will not provide this kind of medical care in the public system.

I would like to see increased funding to organisations like Children by Choice, that offer counselling to women with unplanned pregnancies, and to sexual assault services, that help women who have suffered sexual violence. These services help women make decisions about what is best for them.

I urge this committee to recommend that abortion be removed from the criminal code and put into health legislation.

Carmen Seaby