

We, the Queensland Domestic Violence Services Network, submit that the Queensland Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016 and Inquiry into laws governing termination of pregnancy in Queensland should be amended.

It is a feature of domestic violence that women often face unwanted pregnancy as a result of abusive behaviour. Perpetrators can exert their power to force a partner to become pregnant by removing her right to contraception or by forcing sexual activity, including rape. The pregnancy is then used as another factor to continue the violence and control the woman.

We believe that every woman has the right to make her own choices, to live safely and autonomously. This includes her right to reproductive choices.

We ask that the law be amended to make it safe, legal and uncomplicated for women to have their pregnancy terminated in a timely and respectful manner.

Thank you for accepting this submission.