

From:
To: [abortionlawreform](#)
Subject: Fwd: Submisison re the Abortion Law Reform (Women"s Right to Choose) Amendment Bill introduced by MP Rob Pyne 2016
Date: Thursday, 30 June 2016 12:57:49 PM

Subject: Submisison re the Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill introduced by MP Rob Pyne 2016

I wish to make a submission to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee of the Queensland Parliament on the Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose)

Amendment

Bill 2016.

As an elder Australian (born 1930) and a registered nurse I now share insights I gave gained along the way and then wish to make a recommendation.

I am now well retired, but worked as a registered nurse for many years, the last several years as a geriatric nurse. This is a stage of life when the aged often have time to ponder their lives, their happy memories and sadly their regrets often come to mind. One of the things I heard more than once from these senior citizens when talking of their families, was a sadness about the children they had lost especially at a young age and often through still birth or miscarriage and abortion. It forever left an emptiness in their lives.

It was not only the elder ladies but also the elder men that held these regrets and sadness. I have been told that they wish now they had had the insight then but at the time were young and didn't think of or realise the full impact of their decision. One old man regretted the son who could have helped him with the business, but his wife didn't want another child, they already had one girl. When she managed to get an abortion of this second child, he found out it was a boy, and in his own words he said " I often think of how he would have turned out, it would have been nice to have had a mate to go fishing with over the years, and perhaps to have inherited the business."

I remember another old lady who told me ' I should have had more children and I could have, I was pregnant twice more, but it was too much trouble at the time.' When I asked her how she prevented it, it was with tears in her eyes she said there was a man who helped her abort for money paid to him. She finished by saying ' but I have always regretted it, a bigger family would be nice now to come and do for me'.

As a result of hearing these and many other stories like them, I have made a point of telling my 14 grand-children (and will tell my 11 great grand-children when they get a bit older) that a woman is a mother from the time of conception. Whether the child is born and she keeps the child, or the child is adopted out or the child is aborted somehow, that child remains a part of her. And like the old people I nursed in their final years, that child will be remembered.

Recommendation:

I believe that we should be working to reduce the number of abortions not increasing the availability of abortion. Yes, an unplanned pregnancy can de-rail the plans that a young woman may have for herself but I do not know

a mother who has regretted the children she raised. There are many elder people, as I experienced in those years I worked in an aged care home who regret the children they never got to raise and know.

I further believe, that it is not possible for a woman to have an abortion and not carry the emotional scars. Sometimes she can bury them for 10, 20 or 50 years but they are there and they will surface.

It is my recommendation that this Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill of 2016 be not recommended.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this enquiry. I wish you well in your deliberations.

Louise Smith

Sent from my iPad