

From:
To: abortionlawreform
Subject: Submission for Inquiry into Abortion Law Reform
Date: Thursday, 30 June 2016 1:08:10 PM

Michael and Josiane Lynch

To Whom this may concern:

PROPOSED CHANGES TO ABORTION LAWS IN
QUEENSLAND

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are deeply concerned by the proposed changes to the Abortion Laws in Queensland. Please find below our comments re arguments in favour of these changes.

- 1) The concept of laws deserving to be altered because they are 'old laws', passed in the 19th Century,
belongs to the realm of such prejudicial attitudes as "Ageism": can this Government show true maturity
and grant the existing laws the right to remain unchanged.
- 2) Abortion versus bringing up a child are not the only options. If one studies all arguments in a rational
manner, avoiding appeals to emotions (as found in arguments in favour of the proposed changes),
one must conclude that the existing laws are reasonable laws which should be maintained.
- 3) The current criminal code, in its Section 313 under "Killing Unborn Child", aims to protect the personhood of the unborn.

According to this existing Code, the unborn are people, intrinsically and totally apart from what anyone - including the pregnant mother - might decide to call them.

On a recent Q&A, a Medical Student raised the matter of newborn babies left to die in Queensland following unsuccessful abortions.

If the murder by neglect of newborn babies in our State is a potential result of late-term abortions,

comprehensive laws need to cover all aspects of abortion. Should existing laws cover such possibilities, they must be respected.

4) The proposed enquiry fails to establish clear guidelines towards limits to abortion. It is extremely

important that any changes consider all facets of abortion procedures, failed abortions, as well

as the crucial matter of psychological follow-up for women after abortion; this should include

long-term testing of women's psychological well-being following abortion, the rate world-wide

of depression, health problems, suicides following abortion, up to several decades after the event.

5) The above considerations bring us to the notion of "women making decisions about their own bodies".

Please consider 4) again, in the light precisely of women undergoing drastic procedures, severing

a live part of their own bodies, albeit a temporary part, but destined to mature and reach adulthood

independently and in due time - when they are often under duress financially and might not

make similar decisions under different economic and such circumstances.

6) We would submit that all pregnant women would benefit from laws extending to them every imaginable form of government help and support, with a continuing focus on protecting every mother, as well as every person ever conceived in Queensland.

P.S. Please note that I, Josiane Lynch, co-author of this message, am the result of my mother's

failed abortion attempts, according to her own revelations. In her case, her motivation for not wanting to face such a problematically-timed pregnancy were as followed:

i.e. expecting a 4th child, to be born just 14 months after a health-problems-fraught, difficult 3rd pregnancy and

birth as well as facing untold economic problems, cramped living conditions etc.

Yet 'the unborn' causing such anguish --- is myself, now happily married to Michael, citizens with two daughters of this beautiful

State for over 20 years, (with one daughter in Victoria), and grandparents of 2 bright

young Queenslanders.

To conclude: if these proposed law reforms are meant to empower women to make decisions

about their own bodies, may we stress the fact that within their own bodies live, during pregnancy,

the body or bodies of future Queensland citizens; Queensland has the privilege and duty to

protect such future citizens.

Sincerely yours,

Michael and Josiane Lynch
