

From:
To: [abortionlawreform](#)
Subject: Regarding Abortion Law Reform
Date: Thursday, 30 June 2016 3:40:17 PM

From
Alison Mellers

I am writing to register my disagreement with the proposed law reform for late term abortion. As a mother who has birthed, cared for and recently lost a child with a degenerative and life limiting genetic condition, I am acutely aware of the words of Mahatma Ghandi "A nation's greatness is measure by how it treats its weakest members". Our child Hugh brought incredible love, warmth, joy, wisdom and wonder into the world and I have grown as a person because of who he was and all that he offered in his weakness and disability. I also know that he made a valuable contribution to our community - with many people affected by his short but beautiful life. We also established a foundation to raise money and awareness for research into the genetic condition. At times I felt shame that my child required resources from the Health System because of his needs (even though we paid with private health cover to be treated at a public hospital in order to make a contribution). I have reflected on why this is and I believe it is attributed to those who would seek to discontinue life that they deem not perfect or unwanted. Bills such as the Abortion Law Reform which seek to devalue life by aborting children at such a late and very very viable age. It is as though life if not perfect is not valuable and thus able to be disposed of because of its inconvenience.

The value that is placed on life is crucial to the way we nurture, care and build our communities. As a society we value human life reflected in the laws and statutes that we are governed by. Including being signatories to the Declaration of Human Rights. Even the care for life taken when a baby is born prematurely speaks of our inherent value for humanity. While there are different timelines in Australia for legal termination of pregnancy, it should clearly be before the baby is able to survive by itself. I believe that an unborn child is not a part of the mothers body, rather a new life growing within her body and as such, past a certain time (i.e. 24 weeks) the child should be treated with the dignity and protection a person compatible with life is afforded.

I thank you for your earnest consideration in this matter which is so important to the integrity of our community.

Sincerely,
Alison Mellers