

From:
To: [abortionlawreform](#)
Subject: Submission to Qld Abortion Law Reform Committee
Date: Thursday, 30 June 2016 3:49:57 PM

30/6/16

The Committee of Inquiry into Abortion Law Reform
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention
Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to ask for the correction of an injustice that has affected the lives of the women of Queensland for my entire life. I am asking you to support the "Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016" and bring about the decriminalization of abortion in Queensland.

As a mother, stepmother and grandmother I feel very strongly that each woman should be respected and supported in making difficult life choices. Fertility is a complex and emotionally laden issue. People's lives are not simple and no contraception method is perfect. It is clear throughout history that women have sought ways to end pregnancies even when faced with enormous risks and barriers.

The fact that the Labor party platform includes the repeal of sections 224, 225 and 226 of the Criminal Code gives me hope that at last this government will finally respond to the belief of the vast majority of Queenslanders that women and their health providers should no longer worry that their actions may break the law. I note that evidence showing this strong support is part of submissions to this committee from people with expertise in this area such as the Queensland Nurses Union and Prof Carolyn de Costa. I strongly support those submissions.

I respect that some Queenslanders hold very strong anti-abortion beliefs and I am glad that we live in a country where all opinions can be expressed. I also feel confident however, that many people who are in favour of decriminalization will be reluctant to speak out publically, not because they do not agree, or do not care but because of the social stigma that remains for many. I feel very strongly that your role is to speak out for the majority of Queenslanders, to vote to decriminalize abortion in Queensland and remove this unfair and anachronistic law.

I believe that safe, lawful access to abortion for all women who seek it, will help to build a stronger community. The very complex business of raising children can only be helped when parents truly have options for the decisions they make.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the bill and in assisting Queensland to move into the 21st century.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Davidson