

Submission

Submission relating to the Private Members Bill tabled 10 May 2016 by Mr Rob Pyne, Member for Cairns; *Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016*.

To: Committee making recommendations to Parliament re *(Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016*.

From: Mr Neil Pokarier

When he introduced the Bill, Mr Pyne, Member for Cairns, expressed a personal position that "When a young woman is not ready to have a child and chooses to terminate a pregnancy, that should be a matter for her and her medical practitioner, not a matter for the state", expressing his reasons for wanting to remove sections 224, 225 and 226 from the criminal code. Mr Pyne foresees that if his Bill is passed, that abortion will be easier to obtain and the risk of prosecution for unlawful abortion will be reduced.

Good Governments legislate good laws through thoroughly researched debate and by listening to, and learning how the laws impact on the various strata of society and then fine tuning. Some groups of people are gifted communicators, are quite vocal and able to influence, exert pressure and manipulate public opinion. On the other end of the spectrum there are those who are less skilful and need the understanding, protection and support of society via their Government. Queensland's Parliament has a history of making good laws and protecting the weak and vulnerable. I have no doubt that this is the intention of this bill and from the point of view of desperate young mother it has the semblance of being the answer.. While abortion presents as the solution, it comes associated with incredibly deep grief and guilt and sometimes depression, not to mention the ripple effect on families and friends. If adoption of the *Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016* leads to an increase in abortions it is to be avoided.

★ Therefore I urge you to recommend that the *Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016* be rejected and that there be no change to the Criminal Code Act.

When looked at through the lens of the unborn child, abortion is an even more serious matter as the child is denied life, the most fundamental of our rights since it is requisite to all our endeavours and no one should have the right to take the life of another without grave reason.

Also In his introduction, the Member for Cairns stated that "nearly one-third of women will seek an abortion over their lifetime." I believe this to be excessive and a tragedy that so many women are placed in that situation and so many families are touched by so much grief. It is hard to believe that such a high proportion can be classified as 'surgical operations' or 'medical treatment'. One cannot be certain without an investigation, but it appears that some see abortion as a form of birth control.

★ I believe that loss of the lives of our young people at such a level cannot be ignored by Queensland Parliament and therefore I ask that you recommend an investigation into this situation with a view to reducing the toll of loss of life through abortion.