

**From:**  
**To:** [abortionlawreform](#)  
**Subject:** Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016  
**Date:** Thursday, 30 June 2016 11:12:04 AM

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Dear Committee,

I am writing a submission to you in support of the removal of abortion from Queensland's 1899 Criminal Code.

I believe the laws criminalising abortion are outdated and have no place in modern Australia. As a woman I do not want other Queensland women to face the threat of possible persecution for choosing to terminate a pregnancy nor do I want myself or my health colleagues who assist these women to be fearful of breaking the law and I find it offensive and disrespectful that irrational rhetoric, often from anti-choice advocates, has been allowed to form part of the push to keep abortion illegal. I believe all women should and must have agency over their own body and the health decisions that will impact them and their families, possibly for the rest of their lives, should be between her and her doctor.

As a registered health professional working at the coal face of this debate I am witness to the anxiety and fear that the current laws cause the women seeking termination of pregnancy at a time when they are already facing some of the most difficult decisions of their lives. This is an even bigger problem for women who are experiencing disadvantage. Everyday women in rural and remote settings and women experiencing domestic violence are disadvantaged when it comes to access to abortion. Is this fair and just in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

I am also dismayed that in this day and age I know of women who have attempted to induce their own abortions at home because they fear the consequences of accessing abortion and also women and young girls who have been denied access to abortion in public hospitals when requesting abortion for a pregnancy resulting from rape and sexual assault.

I believe that many women feel a diminished sense of personal control in making important life decisions and I believe that the majority of the population supports a woman's right to choose an abortion. I also know firsthand that women who would not choose to have an abortion themselves still believe that the choice should be available to other women and support that right.

I urge the committee to recommend the passing of the Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016 because all Queensland women should be able to access safe and legal abortion if that is their preferred option when experiencing an unplanned and unwanted pregnancy.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the inquiry.

Yours sincerely  
Amanda Kim