

30 June, 2016

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention
Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane, QLD 4000

Dear Committee Members,

I write this submission for the Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right To Choose) Bill 2016 as a concerned citizen and mother of five in Queensland.

I would like to refer to the terms of reference concerning the need to modernise the law.

I submit that the law needs to remain under the Criminal Code. The destruction of life fits fair and squarely under the Criminal Code - regardless of the age of that life.

MP Rob Pyne, under his Policy Objective for this Bill states that 'this Bill will protect vulnerable Queensland women and the doctors that are currently risking prosecution to assist them'. I submit, conversely, that the *vulnerable* ones who need protection are the babies in the womb. The safest place, ever, should be in the nurturing womb of a baby's mother. Please do not weaken our laws to disadvantage these precious vulnerable ones.

As an employee of the Queensland Education Department, I recently undertook mandatory, annual training in Student Protection. This course instructs extensively on protecting the students in our schools from harm or potential harm.

Under 'Responsibilities', I quote:

'Under s.13A of the *Child Protection Act 1999*, **any person may** make a report when they reasonably suspect:

- an unborn child may be in need of protection because the child will be at risk of suffering significant harm after birth and may not have a parent able and willing to protect the child from harm.

This impacts me as being totally contrary to amendments that could be enacted to this Bill that could open a floodgate of 'significant harm' coming to our most vulnerable ones.

Please keep the laws in our great state tight regarding abortion.

Thank you

Robyn Shanahan
Concerned Citizen