

From:
To: [abortionlawreform](#)
Subject: Abortion law reform
Date: Thursday, 30 June 2016 2:42:20 PM

Good Day,

I am writing to you today to express my profoundly held opinion with regard to women's reproductive rights. Specifically, women (should) **HAVE THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE A PREGNANCY**, and this right should **NOT BE INTERFERED WITH BY THE STATE**.

No matter what you or any one of us may feel personally based on religious or other "moral" convictions, what this comes down to is that pregnancy termination - abortion - is an issue of **BODILY INTEGRITY AND AUTONOMY** - and the right to bodily integrity and autonomy is a **HUMAN RIGHT**. Deciding whether or not to continue a pregnancy is a **MEDICAL** decision, to be made by a woman in consultation with her doctor. The government has **NO PLACE** interfering with this right.

When this right is violated - when there is interference from the state - a woman cannot control her health, her employment situation, her finances, or her standard of living - she **CANNOT CONTROL HER LIFE** or what happens in it. The mere ability to get pregnant means that women experience a type of **DISCRIMINATION** no man ever need be concerned about.

It is a woman's right to be able to choose if and when to have children, how often to have children, and how many children she would like to have. This should never be controlled by any outside party either by fiat or by default. And in the age of science and reason, termination should certainly **NOT BE A CRIME**.

But that is exactly what the current law in Queensland does. Women who don't wish to have children are, technically, criminals. Additionally, the law as it exists today creates a two-tiered system of access that unfairly impacts disadvantaged women. Women of means are always able to get the health care and the "medical reasons" they seek. Not so, the situation for other women.

In recent history, the combination of case law and Criminal Code statutes has been interpreted to allow for a lawful abortion where a woman's life or health is at risk of serious harm. This means that rape, incest and fetal anomaly, for example, are not grounds in or of themselves for a lawful abortion - only their impact on a woman's health is able to be taken into account. This type of narrow reading of a woman's rights is of course illogical, but in reality it is also outrageous.

THE LAW MUST BE CHANGED.
Sincerely,

Ian Ahles.