

30 June 2016

To the Research Director

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Committee

Parliamentary Committee

I am a sexual assault counsellor/support worker of 10 years and ask that you accept my personal and professional comments that I am in favour of decriminalising the Abortion Law and removing from the Criminal Code sections 224, 225 and 226.

Yes there should be guidelines around health care- however shouldn't a woman have a choice regarding her own choices to her physical and mental health?

Living in regional Queensland there a few options to access an abortion and the cost makes it inaccessible to a lot of women.

My 10 years in practice, I have seen women that are having a baby to their father or step father, after their drinks have been spiked and no idea of the identity of the father, brothers, uncles and grandfathers. I have worked with women that have terminated and those that have had the baby, and the one common thread to all these cases has been "What choice do I have" each and every woman has said.

Women deserve choice and Women have a right to choice!

It's time to change this outdated Queensland Abortion Law and it needs to happen now!

Yours Sincerely

Karen Briggs