

From:
To: [abortionlawreform](#)
Subject: Abortion law reform
Date: Thursday, 30 June 2016 8:47:29 PM

Hello,

I'm writing to express my concerns and lack of support for the abortion law reforms proposed by MP Rob Pyne.

As a young woman of childbearing years, who has experienced unplanned pregnancy, who has experienced having children (yes, multiple) with a disability and has walked alongside many of my friends through similar experiences, I cannot allow the perception that all women want more access to abortion.

Currently, women ARE accessing abortions safely throughout Queensland. However, opening up the legality of the proceeding will certainly make it easier and more common for women to seek terminations.

There is not enough unbiased counselling available to women making decisions. Women often make termination decisions within an incredibly short time frame, without telling friends and family, without seeking support and sometimes under great duress. We need to be making it easier for women to continue their pregnancies, rather than making it easier to end them. Real Choices Australia's research indicates the over 70% of women who chose abortion said that they would have chosen differently if just one significant person in their life had supported them. Abortion places strain on women's mental health, sometimes decades later. It is another way for violent, controlling, sadistic or abusive men to cover their tracks and hide from the consequences of their treatment of women. It is not a patch for sexual assault or domestic violence and it does not remove strain on our child support system. As women have sought more and more terminations historically, our track record of children abused, neglected and committed to care has soared.

The belief that a foetus (literally, "a small child") can be discarded by choice is a violation of human rights that contributes to the belief that children once born can be mistreated, abused, neglected and disposed of. The beliefs are connected. We as a society have lost our ability to appreciate life in all of its forms.

Women deserve better than unfettered access to abortion. Children certainly deserve better. We must embrace love and life in all its forms: microscopic, forming, disfigured, ailing, fully formed, unexpected, perfect, fatally flawed or inconvenient. None of us deserve to live or die one more than the other, simply by nature of elements outside of our control. Abortion makes an eternal, inalterable judgement on an individual who has had no opportunity to speak or act for themselves, no chance to show the world who they are or who they might become. It is the ultimate injustice and we cannot expect that making such life-altering decisions will have no impact on the women and families who choose this path. How can it not?

Making abortion laws more relaxed will increase the rate of abortions and it will certainly lead to a greater degree of late term abortions, which are an atrocity. In one hospital room, we will fight to save the life of a preemie baby and in the next, we will end another infant's life. The difference lies solely in the degree to which their parents want them.

When our MPs vote on this issue, I do hope that they will consider that they must do more than represent the view point of the ones who can vocalise their views. There is an entire generation of voiceless children who do not have the opportunity to voice their opinions, and while it's convenient to ignore this, it is not right to do so. Whenever there is doubt, we must err on the side of caution in protecting the vulnerable and innocent.

Changing these laws will have grave moral and ethical consequences and I urge each MP to consider their moral responsibility in the office that they hold.

Yours sincerely,

Lacey Shelton