

From:
To: abortionlawreform
Subject: Submission opposing bill
Date: Thursday, 30 June 2016 5:05:38 PM

To whom it may concern – The purpose of this email is to register my opposition to Mr Pyne’s private members’ bill , which is presently under consideration by the House , which bill has the aim of decriminalising abortion and permitting termination at any stage of the gestation period – that is – up until 9 months . Proponents of the bill argue that the bill should be assessed dispassionately and logically . I agree . The fact is that there is no demonstrated need for a change in the law as it presently stands to improve access for women to clinicians who choose to specialise in abortions . This is attested to by the fact that there were over 10 000 abortions in Queensland last year alone . There is no evidence before the House of any case in which a woman – whose physical or mental health was in danger referable to carrying her child to term , and in respect of whom a clinician had asserted that a termination was “ *reasonable* ” – which is the threshold requirement to absolve the clinician from criminal responsibility under section 282 of the *Criminal Code* – being refused a termination procedure . The present law discharges the difficult and morally fraught job it has to do effectively and proportionately , given the fact that it regulates and properly limits the circumstances in which a viable human life may be taken . Further , having regard to the significant advances in medical technology – which have facilitated the early detection of problems with pregnancies - there is no clinical justification to allow termination up to 9 months . As we know that the unborn child feeds , moves and feels , to take its life under any circumstance other than to preserve the mother’s life is disproportionate and indefensible . As the proponents of the bill have failed to establish a societal or clinical need for a change in the present law , the bill should not be passed . Yours faithfully Brett Heath . .

Brett Heath | Special Counsel

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