

To:

The Parliamentary Committee Overseeing the Proposed Bill to Change the Law in Queensland in Regard to Abortion.

We, the undersigned, wish to put before you our sincere views in relation to the Bill to Decriminalise Abortion in Queensland.

We strongly believe that there should be no change to the Queensland Law in relation to Abortion, except to strengthen it to safeguard the mental and physical health of women who are too easily encouraged to have an abortion, only to end up experiencing a life of mental trauma. In a recent survey by the reputable Galaxy Research Company, 84% of those surveyed believed that abortion harmed the health of women.

Also, 72% of those surveyed opposed abortions after 13 weeks. A majority believe that abortion takes a human life. To decriminalise abortion would let the women of Queensland down. It is estimated that in Queensland around 10,000 abortions are performed each year in spite of the present law. There is no doubt that many women do face traumatic situations in which a pregnancy can pose very serious problems. They need free counselling by counsellors independent of the abortion industry so that they clearly understand what is involved in having an abortion, especially the risk to their physical and/or mental health.

There are many Australians wanting to adopt children. Women with unwanted pregnancies should be counselled to help them recognise that it is better to give life to their child and have he/her adopted by loving parents than to have their life terminated. Giving up a child for adoption is not an easy process either so there is a need for competent counsellors.

Domestic violence, violence in the home, is a major problem in our society today. Abortion is a violent procedure, taking the life of an unborn child. Both a father and mother are involved, because it takes two to make a child. Often the wishes of fathers are ignored when decisions are made regarding an abortion. We believe this is a contributing factor in the domestic violence scenario.

Basically, we propose to your committee:

- (I) Do not in any way liberalise the present law.
- (II) Mandate that women seeking an abortion have to have free counselling by counsellors, independent of the abortion industry, who are well informed on all the issues involved in having an abortion. 94% of those surveyed by Galaxy supported this proposal.
- (III) That there be a period of several days between making an appointment for an abortion and the actual operation. 87% of those surveyed by Galaxy supported this proposal. In a recent news item the Australian Medical Board were calling for a shake-up of the cosmetic surgery industry. A key recommendation was the need for A MANDATORY COOLING OFF PERIOD OF 7 DAYS for patients considering major surgical procedures. In

an ABC news interview, the head of the AMB said this was an important safeguard given that Such Decisions Were Potentially 'LIFE CHANGING'. For a mother to live the rest of her life knowing that she has terminated the life of her own child can be not only 'life changing' but 'life destroying'.

The proposed changes to the present law in Queensland are not favoured by the majority of our voters. To allow abortion up to full term would be giving the tick to the ultimate form of Child Abuse – 'killing them'.

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