

**From:**  
**To:** [Abortion Bill](#)  
**Subject:** We urge you to advise MPs to oppose Rob Pyne's abortion bill for both moral and practical reasons  
**Date:** Monday, 19 September 2016 10:59:40 AM

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Dear committee,

We would like to present our submission to you concerning the Health (Abortion Law Reform Amendment) Bill 2016, tabled by Cairns MP Rob Pyne, which would decriminalise abortion and allow babies to be murdered for any reason up to birth.

We would first like to note that a Galaxy Poll conducted in Queensland just a few months ago shows that the majority of Queenslanders do not believe that abortion law should change. The poll asked voters about their views on abortion and found that from every angle more Queenslanders opposed the provisions in Rob Pyne's bill than supported them.

In fact, the final question explicitly asked voters whether they would be more or less likely to vote for their MP if that MP voted to decriminalise abortion. The result indicated that MPs who vote for such legislation can expect a six percent swing against them at the next election:

[http://www.abortionrethink.org/images/What\\_Olders\\_Really\\_Think\\_About\\_Abortion.pdf](http://www.abortionrethink.org/images/What_Olders_Really_Think_About_Abortion.pdf). Clearly, decriminalising abortion is not something that the voters of Queensland want.

We mention this poll in our submission because one of the provisions of the bill is to make it a criminal offence for anyone to engage in 'an act that can be seen or heard by a person during the protected period for the facility, and intended to stop a person from- (i) entering the facility; or (ii) having or performing an abortion in the facility; or (c) a protest, by any means, during the protected period for the facility relating to the performance of abortions in the facility.'

We would like you to note that passing such a bill would not only decriminalise abortion, against the wishes of the majority of Queenslanders but would also make it illegal for this same majority to exercise their civil rights by communicating with others or peacefully protesting within 50 metres of where the killing takes place.

We trust that these poll findings will compel you to report that community attitude is decidedly in favour of rejecting this bill, and, furthermore, that such a bill will adversely affect Queenslanders' civil rights. We, therefore, hope your report will advise MPs not to support Rob Pyne's bill both on moral and practical grounds.

Yours faithfully,

Diane and Rick Whittle