

From:
To: [Abortion Bill](#)
Subject: Please recommend against the Health (Abortion Law Reform Amendment) Bill 2016
Date: Tuesday, 20 September 2016 8:24:47 AM

Please accept our submission to the enquiry:

We hope that the committee will strongly recommend MPs vote against independent MP for Cairns, Rob Pyne's, Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016.

This bill allows for abortion up until the day of birth, with only the technicality of requiring two abortionist doctors to authorise the death of babies more than 24 weeks old.

At least Mr Pyne has included in his latest bill some means for nurses and other medical staff to opt-out of performing abortions. However, this protection is not as comprehensive as clause 22(1) suggests, because 22(3) then compels all doctors and nurses to kill babies by abortion 'in an emergency if the abortion is necessary to save the life of, or to prevent a serious physical injury to, the woman.' The problem here is that this clause could easily be invoked by hospitals and clinics where an abortionist believes or pretends to believe that a woman may become suicidal or may self-harm if her baby is not killed. This belief cannot be challenged by any objective test and could simply be invoked to force doctors and nurses employed by the facility to perform abortions without any real fear of any legal consequences.

Queensland would then be left in a similar position to Victoria when similar legislation was passed in 2008. Medical staff there were left severely traumatised after being ordered to kill unborn babies by their employers. The following article, for instance, documents the case where a trainee was told to drop a still-living baby into a bucket of formaldehyde (<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/aborted-babies-being-left-to-die-20101006-167u0.html>).

We, therefore, urge you to point out the horrific consequences of this bill to MPs in order to protect both babies and medical staff from these horrors of abortion.

Yours faithfully,

Ben and Ariel Drew