

From:
To: [Abortion Bill](#)
Subject: Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016
Date: Wednesday, 21 September 2016 4:50:33 PM

Please find below my submission:

My previous submission regarding legalising abortion in Queensland outlined my reasons opposing such legalisation so I will not repeat these here. I will instead focus on the proposed ***patient protection or 'safe zones'***.

Freedom of speech is a hallmark of a democratic and free society such as Australia. We should encourage and accept robust debate and allow peaceful protest. For example, if I disagree with a grocery store undercutting farmers to give cheaper prices to the consumer, I should be able to hold up a placard or protest outside the said premise without fear of reprimand so long as I am behaving in a civil manner. My concern is that with the proposed safety zone around abortion clinics, as has happened in Tasmania and the ACT, people will be prosecuted for simply holding a placard or silently praying as they see fit outside an abortion clinic. Recent research shows that an overwhelming majority of Queenslanders do not approve of abortion (www.abortionrethink.org), especially late-term abortion which is still part of this new bill even though two doctors have to agree for it to be done. Therefore, it would be against the very substance of a free society to disallow peaceful protest outside abortion clinics. To this end I oppose the "safe zones" as well as the very core of this new bill which is to legalise abortion in Queensland.

Regards
Janelle Patch