

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Abortion Bill](#)
Subject: Re the Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016
Date: Wednesday, 28 September 2016 5:26:06 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I deeply appreciate the opportunity to be able to offer a submission regarding this Bill. I am a Registered Nurse and Midwife and I speak mostly from a professional point of view. I am profoundly concerned about the very serious after-effects of abortion on girls and women. This is an issue that hardly seems to warrant much attention, and if it does is met with a usually offhand comment that there are no problems post abortion...girls and women just get on with life and all is well.

I can attest to the fact that this most decidedly is often not the case. It may or may not take long periods of time but many suffer a spectrum of complications from depression, increased vulnerability to self-harm (including suicide), as well as the increased risk of pre-term births, and obstetric complications in subsequent births, post abortion.

After completing my nursing training in Brisbane in 1973, I travelled to Aberdeen, Scotland in 1974 and completed my midwifery training there. Termination of pregnancy was legal up to 28 weeks gestation - that being considered the age of viability at the time.

As a 21 year old student midwife I will never ever forget walking into a pan room and seeing green sterile dressing towels that covered the papier-mache bedpans moving. The first time I went into that room I remember lifting up the 'towel' (thinking perhaps my eyes were deceiving me at the movement) and seeing a perfectly formed child of about 18 weeks breathing and moving in the pan. I got a shock - he was just left there till he stopped breathing, however long that took, and was then disposed of.

I can honestly tell you that I will never forget these experiences. (As too many babies were breathing after prostaglandin termination it was decided to use hypertonic saline so that they were not birthed alive). As you know there are instances now where babies are still born alive and left to die post termination. And of course babies are surviving from 24 weeks now - many times with little or no deficits.

So from a professional point of view it can be very traumatic regardless of so-called conscientious objection clauses. But even more importantly, I know many women over my long career (personally and professionally) who have suffered varying degrees of psychological and/or physical trauma, post termination. Some have told me that they totally denied any sense of regret for years and were quite relieved initially - but over time began to realize just how much of a serious negative impact it had on them. I would say mostly depression - and serious depression to the point of suicidal ideation at times.

I believe Queensland has around 10,000 to 14,000 terminations of pregnancy per year currently. Women can avail themselves of these services under the current legislation.

Please may the Abortion Reform Bills be totally rejected.

Yours most sincerely,

[REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]