

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Abortion Bill](#)
Subject: Rob Pyne"s abortion bill
Date: Thursday, 29 September 2016 2:23:18 PM

To the Committee,

I submit to you that Rob Pyne is quite wrong in claiming that there is a lack of clarity around what point during gestation and for reasons a termination of pregnancy may be performed in Queensland.

Earlier this year whilst studying my Diploma in Nursing, I was placed at Cairns Sexual Health Clinic (CSHC) where a number of medical abortions are performed each week. There were never any questions about what was legal, what was not. I never saw the law broken, nor did I see it questioned. There was a very clear understanding about these issues. Mr Pyne is wrong to assert that there is a lack of clarity.

He is also wrong to suggest that the approval and ethics process is simply conducted to substantiate lawfulness, rather than for the benefit of patients' wellbeing. Terminating a pregnancy is a very emotional thing to do, even if one is convinced the end result is in the best interest of all concerned. The current approval and ethics process allows some "breathing space", time for the mother and others involved to try to think rationally, consider all options, and not rush into making a decision they may later regret. By removing these safeguards, it is quite likely that irrational, poorly thought through decisions and actions will occur, resulting in emotional trauma and ending in long-term psychological distress. I feel Rob Pyne knows very little of a woman's psyche, and he is acting as though we don't need the care and consideration that we do.

I also want to point out that there are at least three places (Cairns Day surgery, Cairns Doctors GP rooms and CSHC) where surgical and medical abortions are carried out. Anyone in Cairns who wants an abortion knows that. Never, in all my years of living in Cairns have I seen or heard of anyone trying to block entrance to these places, or obstruct the path of their clients. or protest or photograph the staff or patients. To introduce an exclusion zone is unwarranted, provocative and unfair. Do we have the right to instate exclusion zones around our churches so protestors can't enter?

Having been pregnant myself three times, I know that a woman usually knows quite early on that she is expecting, often even before tests prove it. If a pregnancy is unwanted (which truthfully is why most abortions take place, and nothing at all to do with the health of either mum or bub), then it should be dealt with as early as possible. This will minimise the strain on the mother's body as she doesn't have to carry the extra life for long and the dose of medication used will be less. The physical trauma of removing the embryo from the mother's body is also less because it is smaller. Allowing abortions up to 24 weeks gestation simply increases this trauma. Babies who are born premature at this stage can be nursed, cared for, survive and go on to leading healthy lives. To terminate a baby at the same stage as one able to be saved, seems totally ironic to say the least, let alone unethical.

Finally, it astounds me that Rob Pyne has ignored and disregarded the Queensland Community's response to his first Abortion Bill. His action of introducing a second Bill shows a complete lack of respect. I hope the Committee has the sense and decency to reject it.

Yours,

Ruth Curtis
[REDACTED]