

**From:** [Heather Douglas](#)  
**To:** [Abortion Bill](#)  
**Subject:** Submission: Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016  
**Date:** Friday, 30 September 2016 9:31:46 AM

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To the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee,

I submit that both the *Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016* to decriminalise abortion in Queensland together with the *Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill* should be passed. It is my submission that these two Bills should be passed together. Please refer to my previous submission to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee regarding the *Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill* for further information.

I wish to emphasise that I believe that both bills should be considered together. This approach will support the findings of the *Inquiry Report* into the *Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill* that decriminalising abortion would “effectively align the law of Queensland with Australia’s international legal obligations” under several human rights instruments including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In relation to specific clauses I note:

I support Clause 20: Only a qualified health practitioner may perform an abortion.

I support Clause 21: Abortion on woman more than 24 weeks pregnant.

I support Clause 22: Duty to perform or assist in abortion.

In relation to clause 23: Declarations for abortion facility, I support this clause generally but suggest the exclusion zone is expanded to 150metres in line with the Tasmanian and Victorian legislation.

I support Clause 24: Prohibited behaviour in relations to abortion facility.

I support Clause 25: Publishing images of a person entering or leaving a facility.

To reiterate, I support both the *Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016* to decriminalise abortion in Queensland and the *Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill*. I believe these two Bills should be passed together so that there is a modern

legal approach to abortion introduced in Queensland that is consistent with international obligations and supports the health of Queensland women.

Yours sincerely,  
Heather Douglas

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