

30/09/16

R.E. SUBMISSION TO THE HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND
DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to notify you that I support the decriminalisation of abortion in Queensland, and the repeal of sections 224, 225 and 226 from our 1899 Criminal Code. I believe that the proposed reforms laid out in this new bill will address the Committee's concerns with a straight repeal of our Criminal Code statutes.

As a psychologist working with women who experience unplanned pregnancy, I can attest to the need to repeal the above mentioned sections of the code. I believe this is crucial to improving equal access to affordable and safe services for all women who require termination services. I urge the committee to take into account the comprehensive overview of this issue outlined in the report tabled in August 2016. In particular, I would like to highlight that the recent inquiry recognised the impact that the current legislation has on access to abortion procedures, particularly around access to publicly available procedures, and that the 1899 law does not reflect modern medical practice. Further, the report detailed the lack of evidence of poor health outcomes of abortion and noted the range of expert groups that support decriminalization (i.e. AMA, RANZCOG).

To that end, I support the Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill, in conjunction with the Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill. In addition, I urge the Committee to recommend that both bills are debated and voted on together as a package on the floor of parliament, to reflect the intent of the two pieces of legislation.

I thank the committee for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Kind regards

Dr Nicola Sheeran