

**The Women's Health Centre
Rockhampton**

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Women's Health Program, Sexual Assault Support Service

**RECEIVED**

26 SEP 2016

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To the Research Director
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

To the Parliamentary Committee

Please accept this submission, author Belinda Lindel, Manager representing the Womens Health Centre, Rockhampton on the law governing termination of pregnancy in Queensland.

In writing this submission it supports our prior submission to legalise abortion in Queensland and also supports giving a woman a right to choose terminating a pregnancy before 24 weeks of gestation by a Doctor and an assisting registered nurse. These points will bring clarity to those making the decision to change the current archaic and outdated legislation.

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.

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.

Yours Sincerely

Belinda Lindel
Manager