

From: [John Duncan Stuart](#)
To: [Abortion Bill](#)
Cc: [Greenslopes Electorate Office](#)
Subject: Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016
Date: Wednesday, 5 October 2016 9:39:29 PM

Committee Chair

Dear Madam,

I have skimmed through your report on the first bill. My main reaction to your enlightening report was that I am thankful that I am not in my mothers womb at the moment especially if I had some form of abnormality. If my mother did not want me there would be no one pleading my cause; the medical profession and the legal profession seem to combine in finding a reason and a means to terminate life in the womb and pass it off as "doing the right thing for the woman".

Like Joelle Kelly, as reported in today's "Courier Mail", we have a son with Down Syndrome who was born 31 years ago. The doctor wanted my wife to have an amniocentesis performed to see if the foetus was disabled in any way so that an abortion could be done. However, as this carried a risk to the foetus and we would not consider an abortion in any case, she declined. When our son was born with Down Syndrome, the doctor was concerned that we might sue him, which we never did as he had no responsibility for the child being born with Down Syndrome. There seems to be enormous pressure on women to have "perfect" children; Down Syndrome in particular is being targeted probably because it is easier to detect. Certainly, having a "disabled" child does impose a greater burden of care on the parents but, after meeting many parents with this burden, I have noticed that raising the "disabled" child has made those parents stronger people and in many cases produced stronger marriages. Not only are the parents strengthened but the siblings are affected too. At present I stand in awe at the efforts of two of my cousins (unmarried) who are providing full time care at home to their younger Down Syndrome sister who has been dying of dementia for the past two years - they are inspiring. Last weekend the Downs Syndrome Association of Queensland held a camp at Tallebudgera for young adults and my son attended along with about 50 others. They were all excited about attending and were equally excited after the week end after catching up with their friends and sharing activities with them. People with Down Syndrome enjoy life as much as any other people and possibly more. What gives anyone the power to say that such people should not live?

Two doctors signing off on late term abortions.

31 years ago, our obstetrician advised us that there was no medical condition that could endanger the life of the mother which he could not remedy. I find it difficult to believe that the medical profession has slipped so far backwards that this is now not the case and abortions are now necessary. An estimate of 14,000 abortions in Queensland are performed each year; would there be an additional 14,000 dead women or mad women in Queensland every year if those abortions did not occur? On the other hand, there would be a much needed population increase of that number if the abortions were not performed. Who are the doctors who sign such certificates, are they truly independent, do they make a thorough examination of the patient, are they subjecting the mother to a greater risk in an abortion? If the mother truly does not want the child, are there not many childless couples wanting to adopt children?

Only doctors to perform abortions.

Whilst this clause may provide some sense of safety to the woman, it does nothing for the foetus as we have seen that they are already performing 14,000 abortions every year.

Effects on society.

I notice that your committee is titled "Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic Family Violence Prevention Committee". Is the passage of this bill going to improve our society, is it going to make for stronger communities, improve disability services and reduce domestic family violence? Is not the termination of the foetus an act of violence itself against a defenceless person who actually looks to those committing the violence for its protection? Is it not the obligation of the state to provide protection in law for all of its people? I know that the clever lawyers argue that the unborn child is not a person yet and quote learned judgements to that effect, but we all began our lives as a foetus in our mother's womb but we enjoyed that protection of the law. Are you going to take away that protection? I think that our society needs some uplifting in its ideals and I hope that this government can provide that uplifting.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Yours faithfully,

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