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

Dear Research Director,

**Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016**

Australian Lawyers for Human Rights (ALHR) thanks the Health, Communities, Disabilities Services and Domestic Violence and Family Violence Prevention Committee for the opportunity to make this submission to the inquiry on the *Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016*.

ALHR was established in 1993 and is a national network of Australian solicitors, barristers, academics, judicial officers and law students who practice and promote international human rights law in Australia. ALHR has active and engaged National, State and Territory committees and a secretariat at La Trobe University Law School in Melbourne. Through advocacy, media engagement, education, networking, research and training, ALHR promotes, practices and protects universally accepted standards of human rights throughout Australia and overseas.

Pursuant to our recent submission to the Committee on the *Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016*, it is ALHR's view that criminal provisions relating to the termination of pregnancy should be repealed, and that termination of pregnancy services should be safe, legal and accessible.

ALHR supports the amendments made by the *Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016*, including conscientious objection, safe zones and gestational limits no less than 24 weeks.

We refer the Committee to our previous submission, supporting the decriminalisation of abortion and repeal of sections 224, 225 and 226 of the *Criminal Code 1899*. In addition to this we recommended that the Victorian model be adopted, including safe zones, conscientious objection (with a duty to refer), and that pregnancy termination services be available on demand until 24 weeks' gestation, and with the agreement of two medical practitioners after 24 weeks.

If you would like to discuss this submission, please contact ALHR Qld Convenors Pree Sharma or Kate Marchesi at [qld@alhr.org.au](mailto:qld@alhr.org.au)

Yours faithfully,

Benedict Coyne

**President**

**Australian Lawyers for Human Rights**