

From: [Barbara Baird](#)
To: [Abortion Bill](#)
Subject: Submission on abortion law reform bills
Date: Thursday, 6 October 2016 11:52:07 AM
Attachments: [Barbara Baird Submission re Old abortion reform Oct 2016.docx](#)

Dear Committee

Please see attached my submission regarding the abortion law reform bills.

It is a brief submission so I have also copied below the submission in full.

Sincerely
Barbara Baird

**Submission to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family
Violence Prevention Committee concerning the *Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill*
and the *Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill***

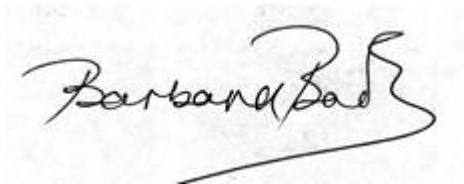
I am an academic researcher who has been investigating the past and present provision and experience of abortion in Australia for over twenty-five years. My work has been published in international academic History journals, Women's Studies/Gender Studies journals and Public Health journals. My current research project is investigating the provision of abortion services in Australia since 1990.

On 26 June this year I made a detailed submission to the committee's inquiry into the *Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill* and addressed several of the committee's issue of concern. I have followed with great interest the journey of that bill and the committee's inquiry into abortion matters. I write now to join with others who are supporting the decriminalisation of abortion in Queensland and the repeal of sections 224, 225 and 226 from the 1899 Queensland Criminal Code.

I express strong support for the *Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill* but only in conjunction with the *Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill*. In fact I urge the committee to recommend that the two bills are dealt with by the parliament in tandem, to reflect their complementary purpose. If passed the consequent regime would resemble closely the law regarding abortion in Victoria. The only dissatisfaction with that regime has come from those who are philosophically opposed to abortion. There has been no other objection to the working of the post 2008 law, nor since the addition of exclusion zone clauses. In fact those who provide health care to women have applauded the relief that the exclusion zone legislation has delivered for patients and staff alike.

I acknowledge that for a small minority of people abortion remains a controversial issue. For the great majority Australians, including most Queenslanders, and for the professional bodies who are involved in women's health care, the decriminalisation of abortion is clearly seen to be a key part of what is required to improve women's reproductive health care services in Queensland.

Yours sincerely



Associate Professor Barbara Baird

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Signatory to the [Charter](#) of the National Alliance for Public Universities

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