

Hazel Lees

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6 October 2016

To the Health, Communities, Disability Services, Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee - submission on the *Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016* which you are currently considering:

I made a submission to your enquiry into the *Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016* – submission number 1206. I request that you take into consideration my previous submission during your examination of the *Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016*.

In my submission to the committee's enquiry on the first abortion law bill, I stated that I was in favour of Queensland adopting laws similar to the relevant laws of Victoria where abortion is no longer a crime but where abortion is regulated under health laws. I believe this second bill fulfils that request.

The second bill includes regulation of abortion on women more than 24 weeks pregnant. It also includes declared protected areas around abortion facilities with protection for people entering and using abortion clinics and other regulations that reflect the Victorian laws relating to abortion.

The Committee's Report on the first bill and the Inquiry into laws governing termination of pregnancy in Queensland, includes in PART 3: OPTIONS FOR ABORTION LAW, Option 5: Regulation of abortion in health legislation. The second bill includes the major aspects of regulation in health legislation that are discussed under Option 5. These aspects were not included in the first bill which addressed decriminalisation only. The Committee did not support decriminalisation without some regulation, as being inconsistent with community expectations.

I am in favour of the first and second bills being presented to Parliament together, with the second bill being voted on first to ensure that regulation under health law is in place before Members are required to vote on decriminalisation.

I feel the first and second bills together reflect community attitudes and expectations in Queensland.

Thank you for the work the Committee has done on the first bill and the Inquiry into laws governing termination of pregnancy in Queensland. The resulting report is a very valuable document for all who are concerned about abortion law in Queensland.

Yours faithfully

Hazel Lees

Hazel Jane Lees