

Submission by Lyn Moffat

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Some years ago, when I was in my early thirties, I spoke to my doctor's receptionist (she was also the doctor's wife) for the results of a pregnancy test, I was told that yes. it was positive, I was pregnant. Her next statement absolutely floored me! She asked "You are continuing with it then?" I thought to myself, "would it be that easy, if I wasn't happy about it to just get an abortion?" I decided that if that was this doctor's attitude to life, then I would find another doctor, and I never went back to him.

Years before, when the issue was being publicly discussed, I, without thinking too deeply about it, thought that if a woman didn't think she could cope with motherhood, it might be ok for her to abort her baby. But once I had children of my own, my view changed completely, especially after my first child was stillborn at 36 weeks. I then knew in my heart that abortion would be killing a baby.

As a society we are shocked and saddened by the taking of life particularly where a young, innocent child is concerned. And yet somehow, some can justify and even condone the taking of the life of an unborn child simply for the convenience of the parent. . Once a woman is pregnant, she knows it is a baby she is carrying. Using other terms such as foetus to make abortion sound more acceptable, does not change then end result - the taking of a human life

The physical and mental health of the patient has long been used as the "excuse" for performing these abortions. I can only say that there must be a lot of women that were suffering mental conditions when so many abortions are performed each year in Queensland.

To simply change the law to now make it acceptable for doctors and nursing staff to perform these abortions - at any stage of pregnancy - without fear of prosecution, shows how low we as a society have sunk! I fear for our future.

As caring and humane health professionals and people, we should be looking at the many alternatives that would ensure the wellbeing of both the mother and the child. By upholding the existing legislation, regarding the unnecessary taking of life, and providing support and help for both the mother and child, no matter what the circumstances of conception, would go a long way towards showing ourselves to be a truly caring and compassionate society.

Thank you

Lyn Moffat